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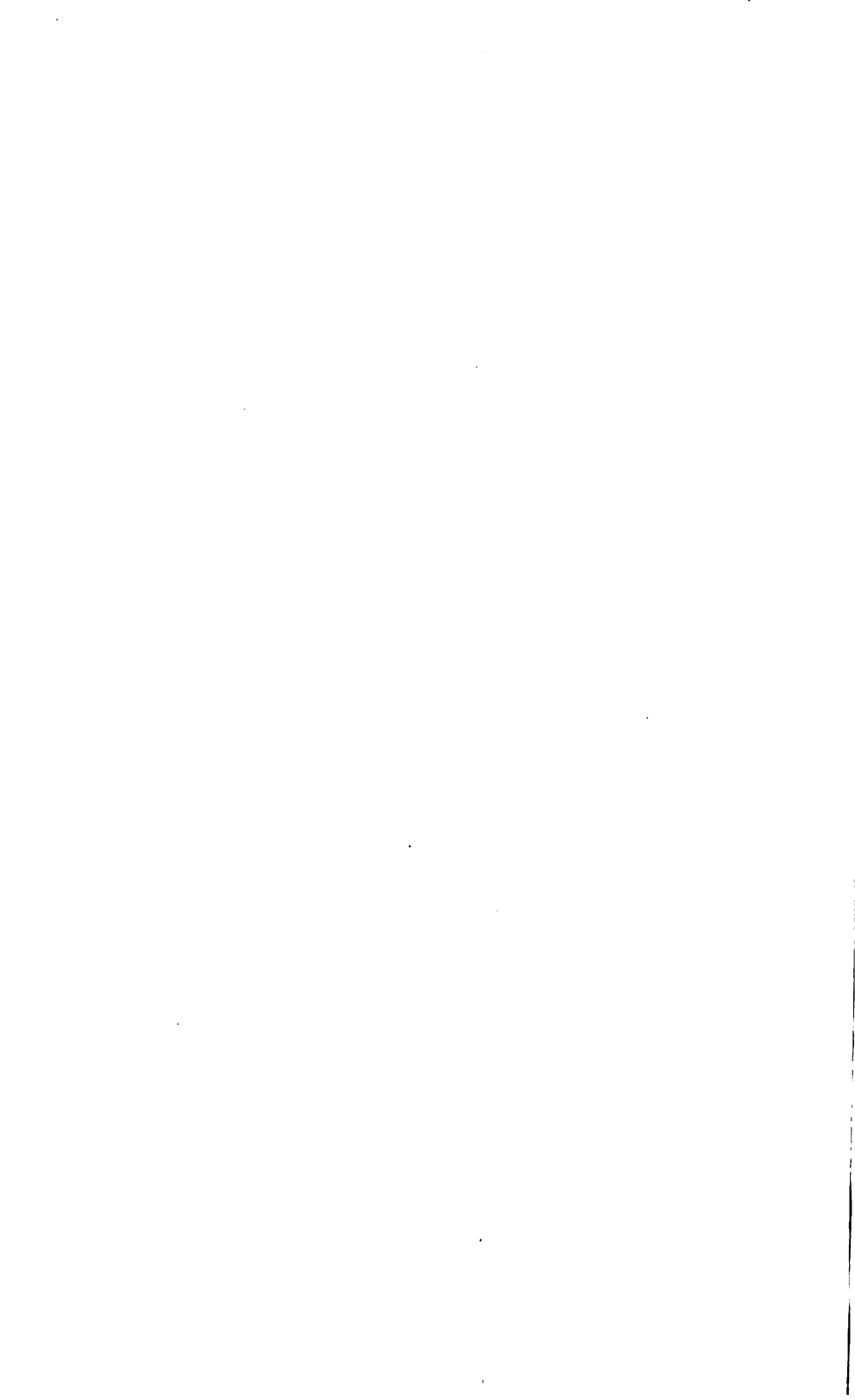
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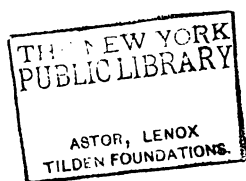
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MARKET PLACE LUTON, 1835.

THE
HISTORY OF LUTON,

WITH ITS

HAMLETS, ETC.

BY FREDERICK DAVIS.

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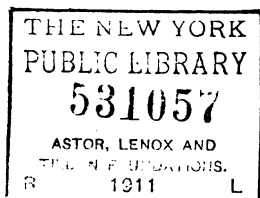
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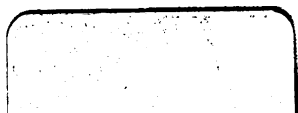
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1855.

48. 27 July 1868. sp. ap



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ALBANY
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PREFACE.

The History of Luton has, hitherto, been merely fragmentary, descending scarcely to the middle of the eighteenth century, and confined almost exclusively to matters connected with the Church; but the Neighbourhood possessing many relics of antiquity, and the Town itself having risen, within the last few years, to a prominent position in the Commercial world, the Author felt induced to believe that a collection of facts, relating to both, presented in a connected form, would not be unacceptable to the public. With this view, he has spared no pains in consulting every available record of former ages, or in collecting every interesting event of later date. The present History is the fruit of his exertions; and he feels stimulated by the hope, and impressed with the conviction, that it will be found more complete, comprehensive, and satisfactory, than anything that has yet been written upon the subject.

Luton, June, 1855.

Sturges Mar: 31, 1911

Tradesmen's Tokens.

"We have here engraved two tradesmen's tokens of
this town; No. 1 from the collection of M. L. Tuttle, Esq.
No. 2 from that of the Rev. W. Southgate." Bibl. Top. Brit.
No VIII. p. 54*.

They are the same as those

represented on the cover of this volume.

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HISTORY OF LUTON.

LUTON,

AN Ancient Town of the Britons, situated ten miles north of the venerable city of Verulam, and five from Dunstable. Having a Church, it is very probable that it was converted to the Christian faith long before the Saxons took it, as several coins of Constantine, the first British Christian King, have been found in and about the town; and its being so near to Verulam, the seat of christianity, goes very far to confirm the probability. History informs us that several battles were fought in these parts in the year 570, between the Saxons and the British King Arthur; and the Saxon annals say that, in 571, Cuthwulf, the Saxon General, defeated the Britons, which is the first historical event found relating to the county of Bedford, and took from them the town of Lygea-Byrig or Burg.

(Some historians place this at Leighton Buzzard, but they must be unacquainted with the history and situation of both towns, or they could not so misplace them. It is well known

that Leighton was not in being at the time of this battle, but that it is a town of Norman origin, and called Leiton-Beau-Desart, from *Leiton*, grassy ground, *Beau, fair, and Desart*, woody; it was afterwards called Leiton Bosart, and the Chronicles of Dunstable call it Leyton; besides, it stands on the river Ouse, and there has never been anything of British, Roman, Saxon, or Danish antiquities found, to corroborate the statement.)

rather from Bosard, a family.

(The Saxon annals say, they took Lyean-Burgh, Egelesburg and Beorgford; meaning Luton, Edlesborough, and Beorgford, or Bourn, Bullbourn. This Bullbourn stood where the canal crosses the road from Pitstone to Tring, and was destroyed by the Danes. A great quantity of British, Roman, and Saxon antiquities have been found there.)

See.

It is also in the same annals called a Royal Vill, or town. The British name is nearly the same as the Saxon, *Lygea*, a river in an open field, and *Byrig*, a town. The Saxon *Lygean*, a common, and *Tune*, a town. It evidently took its name from the river Lyge, now called Lea, which rises near Houghton Regis, and runs through the whole extent of Luton parish. The Saxons afterwards called it LYGETUNE, by which name it is given in King Offa's charter to the abbot of St. Albans, since which time it has undergone many alterations. In Doomsday book it is LOITONE; in King John's charter, LOYTON; in Edward I, II, and III, LUYTONE; in Henry VI, LUYTON; In Henry VIII, LEWTON; in Charles I, the latin v was used instead of u, thus LVTON, now LUTON.

Although neither the chronicles nor history inform us where this battle took place, yet time, and other circumstances, have pointed it out. It is well known that Verulam was one of the principal cities of the Britons, and Bedford is proved to have been a fortified town of the Saxons; and as there was a branch of Watling Street turning off at St. Albans to Luton, or, rather, by Farley, and so on to Runley Wood, Leagrave Marsh, Toddington, &c., to Northampton, it is most probable that this battle took place between Bedford and Verulam; and what has lately been discovered between Toddington, Chargrove, and Wingfield, fully prove that place to have been the scene of action. In 1819, as some labourers were digging in a field for gravel, they discovered a large quantity of human bones pieces of iron armour, numbers of spear heads with sockets and rivets, &c., the handles of which were gone; also pieces of swords and daggers, with two and three edges, and others like spits, with a number of buckles, rings, and other brass pieces, of a circular form, and embossed with ornaments, which seem to have been placed in the centre of their shields; also urns, containing beads of various colours, and peculiar forms; and in one part of the field were numerous quantities of small pots, filled with little bones. The labourers state that they found the above men-

tioned things all over that field, and the adjoining ones. It is very plain that a great battle took place here, and that the Britons were pursued by the Saxons down the hill, through Chalton, to Leagrave Marsh; as skeletons and weapons, of the same description as above, rings of gold, and other things, are continually found there. No doubt the Britons fled to Verulam, and left Luton to the mercy of the Saxons, which they took, and then made for the Icknield Road to Eddlesboro, &c. Mr. Nichols says—

(“This battle was between the Britons and the Romans, who marched from Bedford to meet the Britons who were coming from Buckingham to Verulam.” But this could not be, as Bedford was not in being at that time: it is proved to be of Saxon origin.)

In his History of Dunstable he also gives a larger and more particular account of this battle, and has engraved some of the weapons found there. He also thinks Chargrove, Carcut, Chalton, and other places near, take their names from this battle. He says the word *char*, or *car*, is a British word; and means war, &c. It certainly is a British word, and we still use it for the same meaning, with some addition, viz.: *car-nage*, *war* or *slaughter*, *char-nel*, *burying place for the dead*. The Britons being defeated by Cuthwulph, he took from them the town of Lygean Burgh, which evidently they held and improved, for it was a place of considerable value

2.

There are graves to be seen.

in the time of King Offa, as it then had a Church and Market.

(Luton at this early period was noted for making and selling Bras, i.e., *malt*, and Brasium, *ale or beer*, besides Monchet, *wheat or bread*, and cattle. The art of making malt and beer was brought into England by the Saxons, and was their general beverage. This trade was carried on to a very great extent till within the last 200 years. About 400 years ago upwards of sixty kilns were worked, now there are only six. Traces of malt-kilns are to be found in almost every part of the town.)

In a charter dated at Bexenford, now Bedford, in 795, it is stated, that King Offa gave to the abbot of St. Albans a fourth part of the Church of Lygetune, and five manses, with their land and manors, which were then worth more than £100 per annum.

(£100 at that time was equal to £2,300 now, which was a very great gift. Mr. Newcombe, in his History of St. Alban's, says, that "Luton was its earliest and best gift.")

All these Bishop Alkmond gave to the king to be reconciled to him, but the advowson was not appendant to this gift, it being purchased for 80 marks of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, who was Chief Lord of the town, by Robert, the eighteenth Abbot of St. Alban's, who gave it to his monastery before 1166, in which year he died.

(Bloomfield says, p. 42, "Henry II ordered, by proclamation, that all such lands which ever belonged to his predecessors, as should be made out by oath of his men,

should be for ever preserved in the dominion of him and his successors after they were now restored; hereupon the church of Luton was returned as built upon the king's land, and accordingly he caused the said church to be seized into his hands by Richard of Poitou, the Archdeacon, and the two priests placed there to be turned out; however the Abbot recovered the same again by the mediation of the said Richard, granting to him the portion of the aforesaid priests; whence it appears that Luton was demean of the Conqueror, after given to the Earls of Gloucester, and the advowson by them sold to Robert, Abbot of St. Alban's, who gave it to the monastery.")

From that time the Abbey held the Rectory wholly in its own hands until forced by the statute to endow a vicar.

From the time of King Offa we hear but little respecting Lygean Burg, until the Norman Survey, when it was called in Domesday Book Loitone. Domesday Book is written in Norman French, and the name was altered according to that language.

(Extract from Domesday Book, p. 209, which being translated, the substance is thus:—"The tolls of the market were valued at 100 shillings per annum, (a very considerable sum then). It paid £30 per annum besides certain services to the King; for small dues to the same, 70 shillings, and "pro consuetudine canum," (qy. for the King's hounds) 6 shillings and 10 pence. To the Queen four ounces of gold; £8 "ad pensum cremento quod misit Jo. Tallebose;" forty shillings of white silver and one ounce of gold, to the Sheriff. There were six mills, together of the annual value of 100 shillings; and there was pasturage, or pannage for 2,000 hogs." These are usual items in Domesday Book.)

It was at that time in the hands of the King, who gave it to Geoffrey, Earl of Perch. By a subsequent grant it became the property of Robert, Earl of Gloucester, and having again reverted to the Crown, was granted by King Stephen to Richard Wandari, and afterwards by Richard I, to Baldwin de Bethun, Earl of Albemarle.

(Steel, in his Church Notes taken at Luton, p. 26, says, "In Henry 3rds time did Wm. Mareschall (son to Wm. Earl of Pembroke) ratify the grant of Alice his wife, daughter to Baldwin de Bethun, Earl of Albemarle, made to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, of one hundred shillings yearly rent, issuing out of his manor of Luton, which she the said Alice had, by her testament, bequeathed for the maintenance of two Priests, celebrating Divine Service daily in that Church for the health of her soul and all the said William's ancestors', and successors', souls; and all the faithful deceased.")

William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, who married the Earl of Albemarle's daughter and heiress, gave it to the famous Faulke de Brent, who, in 1216, obtained a confirmation from King John of the honour of Luton,

(Every part of its history shews its importance. It had long before this been a Borough Town, and held its own Courts of Law and Justice, by its own Officers and Burgesses; but by this grant it is advanced to the highest honour, being the property of the Crown, it generally was given by the kings, from the Saxons to Henry VIII, to their Courtiers or Warriors of highest rank.)

where he built a Castle in 1221, to the great annoyance of the neighbouring Town. This

Castle probably stood in the meadow at the east corner of the churchyard, where the site of a large square moated mansion is still very plainly to be seen; the meadow adjoining it is surrounded by a very high bank of earth, and a deep ditch. The castle, no doubt, was demolished as soon as his fate was decided, and the Court House built on its ruins. The meadow is still called Court Close.

An account of this haughty and oppressive Baron's character is given by the Rev. J. D. Parry, in his History of Bedford, p. 20. "In the year 1216, Wm. de Beauchamp, being possessed of the Barony of Bedford, was required to surrender the Castle by the Insurgent Barons, then in arms against the king; he came over to their side and received them as friends into the Castle. The King sent his favourite, Fawkes de Brent, to summon the Castle; whereupon the Barons made an agreement with him that if relief did not come within seven days, they would surrender it; and they accordingly did. The Castle was granted to Fawkes de Brent (or more properly *Breaute*) as a reward for his services. The King appears to have been there in person the same year. It was at this time that Falcs is said to have pulled down the Collegiate Church of St. Paul, to enlarge and fortify the Castle."

“He is in some measure exonerated by the assertion that he did this by order of the King, as a charter of I Henry 3rd grants the Church of Tindene to the Monks of Newenham, as a compensation for his father having ordered St. Paul’s Church to be pulled down to fortify the Castle. But there is little doubt that Falcs, who was a brutal and rapacious character, would add, on the occasion, a few volunteer acts of oppression and cruelty of his own, presuming on the supposed impregnable strength of the Castle. Falcs now set all law at defiance, and began to seize the possessions, and take away the goods of his weak neighbours, without moderation or mercy. In consequence of some of these acts of violence, he was fined by the King’s Justiciaries Itinerant, at Dunstable, in the sum of £3,000; in answer to which he took the very summary means of sending a party of Soldiers, who seized Henry de Braibrock, the principal Judge, and brought him prisoner to the Castle of Bedford, where he was kept a close prisoner with great severity. Falcs, seduced by a false hope, had thought that his men could hold the Castle a whole year, till, at length, when by certain relation, he knew that his brother and all the rest were hanged. Under the conduct of Alexander, Bishop of Coventry, he came to Bedford to the King, and falling prostrate before

him begged, that for his obedience and expensive labours performed for him and his father in the time of hostility, he might obtain pardon. Then the King by Council delivered him, despoiled of his Castle, his Lands, and all his Goods, to the keeping of Eustace, Bishop of London, until it might be judicially determined what should be done with him. Then was displayed the vengeance of St. Paul, for Falcs, that bloody traitor, had destroyed the Church of St. Paul, for the building and fortifying of his Castle, who was now kept in a dungeon in the custody of St. Paul, (London) whence the Abbess of Helenstow, hearing that Falcs had raged against St. Paul's Church, and was yet unpunished, ordered the sword to be taken out of the hand of the Statute of St. Paul, and after this vengeance, to be restored. And so Falcs as in a moment, from a very rich man became poor."

Matthew Paris says that "Falcs de Breaute was illegitimate; and had risen from a low origin to be a dependant on the King, and that among other acts of violence he had deprived of their possessions thirty-two freemen at Luiton, (Luton) for which he was condemned by Henri de Braibrock. The Castle was summoned three successive days, and then the Bishops and Abbots excommunicated Falcs and his followers, and

ordered him to be outlawed. Wm. Mantel, de Breute, and many English and Norman nobles, who presided over the Castle, were hanged. Amongst the King's Soldiers who perished by the Archers, the principal was one Geoffrey, whom he calls a very elegant soldier."

Holinshed says "Faukes' reverse of fortune seems to have been considered a striking and exemplary instance of retributive justice."

Thomas of Walsingham remarks "that Faukes de Breute, after having exceeded all the Nobles of England in wealth and splendour, was in the course of one year obliged to beg his bread in France, and had not a resting place for his head." Upon the banishment of Faulke de Brent, Luton was re-granted to the Earl of Pembroke. Eleanor, widow of Wm. Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, who was sister of King Henry III, who married for her second husband, Simon de Montford, Earl of Leicester, held the manor in dower till her death, which happened in 1274.

The principal Manor and Lordship of Luton was afterwards in the possession of the Countess of Derby.

In 1282, of William ^{de Moham} ~~Earl of Somerset~~.

unreg. see 63.

In 1403, John Cressey was Lord of the Manor.

In 1406, it was granted to John, Duke of Bedford, Regent of France, by King Henry V.

In 1450, it was in the possession of John, Lord Wenlock, a character of some importance. "He rose in the reign of Henry VI; was Knighted, and made Constable to Bamburgh Castle, and Chamberlain to the Queen. He acquired great wealth, and was able to lend his master £1,033 6s. 8d.; for which he received an assignment of the 15th and 10th, granted by Parliament in 1456; and soon after he was rewarded with being made Knight of the Garter. He valiantly supported the Royal Cause at the first battle of St. Albans, and was carried out of it dreadfully wounded; yet with the fickleness of the times, he joined the Duke of York in 1459, and was, of course, attainted by the Lancastrian Parliament. He fought valiantly in Towton Field, and received, as recompense for his former loss, the office of Chief Butler of England, and the Stewardship of the Castle and Manor of Berkhamstead, and was created a Baron. He was employed by the Yorkists in several important embassies, and advanced to the office of Lieutenant of Calais. Notwithstanding all these favours, he again revolted, and joined the Earl of Warwick to restore the deposed Henry. He raised forces, and joined Margaret of Anjou before the battle of Tewkesbury. He was appointed by the General, John, Earl of Somerset, to the command of what was called

the middle ward of the army. When Somerset, who led the van, found himself unsupported in the fierce attack he had made on the enemy, he returned, enraged, to see the cause. He found Lord Wenlock, with his troops, standing in the Market-place. Whether a panic had seized him, or whether, through a mutability of mind, he was meditating a new revolt, does not appear; but the Earl, unable to curb his fury, rode up, and, with one blow of his battle axe, clove the skull of the supposed traitor. He was interred at Tewkesbury, and his tomb is still to be seen in that noble Church."

After the death of Lord Wenlock, the Town and Manor of Luton were possessed by the Rotherhams, who held it till 1601, when it was purchased by Sir Robert Napier, and continued in that family till 1738. It then came into the possession of William Hearne, Esq., who, in 1763, sold it to John, Lord of Bute, in whose family it remained until 1844, when the late Marquis of Bute sold it to Mr. Ward.

The Marquis of Bute's family is an ancient one in Scotland, and of Regal origin, being traced up to a son of King Robert II, to whom his father granted possessions in the Isle of Bute. They are allied to the Scotch family of Argyle, Ruthven, &c., and to the English ones of Northumberland, Ancaster, Kingston, Hartford, &c.,

&c., Of this family was the celebrated minister; Lady Wortley Montague; &c. &c. The late and last Marquis who possessed the Town and Manor, was John Crichton Stuart, born in 1793, he succeeded to the Earldom of Dumfries in 1806, and to the Marquisate of Bute in 1814. He married, in 1818, Maria North, eldest daughter of the Earl of Guildford, who died without issue. He married for his second wife, Lady Sophia Frederica Christina Hastings, second daughter of Francis, first Marquis of Hastings, 10th April, 1845, of whom he had issue, a son, John Patrick, the present, and third Marquis of Bute, born 12th September, 1847, heir to the title. He had other Scotch and English titles, and was Hereditary Sheriff and Coroner of Bute, and Lord-Lieutenant of Glamorganshire.

Although Mr. Ward purchased this estate, he did not possess it, having sold it immediately afterwards to John Shaw Leigh, Esq., who is the present possessor.

The Parish of Luton is extensive, being thirty-four miles in circuit, containing nearly seventeen thousand acres, and is in the hundred of Flit. The whole of the property, not only in the Township, but also in the Parish, is freehold, except a small blacksmith's shop, situated at Stopsley, occupied by Holdstock; John, Earl of Bute, who was a great man with the king,

obtained, by purchase, the franchise, and gave it to the holders of property, at the same time levying a certain small quit-rent of one farthing, some one half-penny, others a barleycorn, &c.

All the Manors in the hundred of Flit pay dues to the Lord of the Manor of Luton; he being lord paramount of the hundred; and he has, from his claims, free access of shooting and fishing from the Hoo to the boundary of the Hundred of Flit. Two Gentlemen Rangers were kept at one time, to go once or twice a year to keep up the claims.

The Parish contains several Manors and Hamlets, which are traced back to a very ancient date. Dr. Parry says, that "to describe all the manors that are, and have been, in the parish of Luton, with the different families that have possessed them, would fill a small volume." The following are some, as named by ancient record; viz.—Fennel's Grove, Langley's, Bennett's, Northwood's Stapleforth, East Hyde, West Hyde, Stoppesley, Great Hampstead, Someries, Hay's, Bailiff's, Dallow, Leagrave, Lightgrove or Lucy's, Biscot, Breach, Limbury, &c.

All trace of Bennett's and Northwood, appear to be lost; Langley's and Stapleforth passed to the Napier's; the latter was a farm which now forms part of the park; the former was also a farm, with a mansion-house, and situated in

*Luton
Langley's } 10 Dec. 1470.
& Pykes*

Castle Street. The Breach belonged to the Rotherham's and Napier's; and was purchased by the Earl of Bute, with the Luton Estate of Mr. Herne, with which estate it has since remained connected.

LUTON HOO

is about two miles south east from Luton, and in the Hamlet of West Hyde.

(West Hyde has no village, but there are three or four farms; the principal one is called Hyde Farm; there is a public-house called the Harrow, and a few cottages by the roadside of Kingsburn Green. There is a large farm in the park called the Pursley's, (qy. if not Purlieus,) being on the border of the old park.)

West Hyde is situated on an elevated spot, and affords a very pleasant view to the traveller, as he passes along the road leading to Wheat-hampstead. It is a very ancient Manor, and was possessed by the family of de Hoo, long before the Norman Conquest, from whence it derives its name: for it appears that Robert de Hoo held the manor in the days of King Canutus the Dane. It afterwards came into the possession of Sir Thomas Hoo, who married Anne, daughter of Sir William Watton, Knt. He died on the 19th October, 1018. The next that history mentions as possessing it, was Sir Robert Hoo,



LUTON HOO.

The Seat of John Russell Esq.



LUTON HOO.
FROM LAKE.

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ASTOR LENOX
TILDEN FOUNDATION

who married Beatrice, daughter of Alexander, Earl of Andival in Normandy; he died the 9th May, 1310. These all lie buried in Luton Church. It then passed, in the time of Edward III., to Sir Thomas Hoo, Knt., father of Sir William Hoo, Knt., who, in the tenth of Richard II., upon the flight of Michael de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, to avoid the danger of those times, assisted him in getting to Calais; and afterwards, in the eighth of Henry IV., served, in that garrison, under John, Earl of Somerset, captain thereof. This William, by Avice his wife, daughter and heiress to Nicholas Malman, had issue Thomas, who, in the fourteenth of Henry VI, being then a Knight, in consideration of his signal services, obtained a grant of £40 per annum, and in the twenty-fourth of the same reign, for his further services performed in France and Normandy, was created a Baron of this realm, by the title of Lord Hoo and Hastings, in the year 1447, and was also ~~soon after~~ elected Knight of the Garter. By Elizabeth, his first wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Felton, he had issue Thomas, who died in his father's lifetime. For his second wife he married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress to Nicholas Wickenham, Knt.; by whom he had issue Anne, married to Sir Geoffrey Bullen, Knt., some time Lord Mayor of London. (The Chronicles of the City of London call him "Sir Geoffrey

Boleine, Mayor in 1457; who gave £1,000 to poor householders in London.)” He was the father of Queen Anne Bullen or Boleine, and grandfather of Queen Elizabeth. He had a third wife Eleanor, daughter to Leo, Lord Welles, and sister and co-heiress to Richard, Lord Welles; by whom he had issue three daughters. Eleanor was married to Sir James Crew, Knt.; Jane to Sir Roger Copley; and Elizabeth to Sir John Devenish.

This manor was afterwards sold, in 1523, to Richard Farmer, merchant, whose heir conveyed it, in 1575, to John Brocket, Esq. In 1601 it was purchased, with the fine seat and park, by Robert Napier, who was knighted by James I, in his progress in 1611, and further advanced to the dignity of baronet in 1612. His son Robert surrendered his patent, that the dignity might be reserved to himself and his two sons, by his second lady; but dying before the patent passed the seals, his son John was therefore created by Charles II., 1660, according to the intent of the patent. He was knight of the shire of the county of Bedford in this reign, and died 1712, under a commission of lunacy, two falls from his horse having impaired his faculties.

From the family of Napiers, it passed to Mr. Herne, who sold it to John, Earl of Bute. (“The Earl of Bute set out for Luton Hoo, in

Bedfordshire, to take possession of an Estate which his Lordship has lately purchased for £111,000." Extract from *Gent's Mag.*, October, 1763.) It was held by the Bute family until 1844, being then sold to Mr. Ward; who again sold it immediately afterwards, without possessing it, to the present proprietor, John Shaw Leigh, Esq.

The Old Park, consisting of about three hundred acres, enclosed by Sir Robert Napier, was enlarged to one thousand two hundred acres by Lord Bute, who employed Brown to lay it out, and now contains about one thousand five hundred acres, three hundred having been added to it by the late Marquis: it is well wooded, and the grounds throughout are highly favoured by nature, and have been considerably improved by art. The river Lea, which meanders through it, has been formed into a noble lake. At the bottom of the eminence on which the house is seated, the width of this expanse of water is nearly a quarter of a mile;—it is well stocked with fish, and covered with swans, wild geese and ducks, baldcootes, moorhens, and other water fowl; its islands and cascades, and the numerous trees and plantations, present a diversified and beautiful prospect. From a path, leading through a fine valley, there is a pleasing view of a plain Tuscan pillar, on the pedestal of

which is the following inscription: "In Memory of Mr. Francis Napier." Upon the summit of the pillar is an urn, which is peculiarly beautiful. The prospect from this spot is interesting to the lover of the picturesque; while the openings or breaks through the woods, the hollow dales, and groups of fine beech trees present an agreeable variety to the landscape painter. An ancient ivy lodge formerly occupied the space between the old brick mansion of the Napiers and the end of Lord Bute's Library. In 1771, the mansion-house was considerably damaged by a fire breaking out, after which, the house was in a great measure rebuilt by the noble owner, the grandfather of the late Marquis of Bute, who employed the celebrated Adams to reconcile the incongruities of its architecture, and rectify the dissonance of the materials and arrangements that had been occasioned from the mansion having been erected at various times and by different persons. This the artist effected by building a kind of architectural facade on the mass, and forming a comfortable and convenient suite of rooms. It was afterwards much more regular and grand, as a greater part of it had been rebuilt by the late Marquis of Bute. The library measured one hundred and forty-six feet long, and contained, in his time, about thirty thousand volumes of valuable and scarce books;

said to be inferior only to Blenheim: the ceiling was lightly and elegantly painted, as also were those of some other rooms, by Cipriani. In this house was also a chapel, fitted up with a beautifully carved gothic oak and wainscot screen, adorned with sentences of scripture in latin, in ancient character, by the family of Napiers, brought from Sir Thomas Pope's chapel at Tittenhanger, in Hertfordshire, or from some dissolved Abbey, as thought most probable by many: this carving is said to have been one of the finest ancient specimens in wood existing. In Mr. Shaw's splendid work, illustrative of this chapel, he gives a just and ample description of the beauty, interest, and splendour of this place. Having been since destroyed by fire, this illustration will fortunately remain a memorial of the superb specimen of ecclesiastical architecture, and be preserved for the lover of the fine arts, and of our national antiquities. The floor was paved with black and white marble.

The collection of paintings, in this house, was one of the finest in England, and even in Europe; it is said to have been superior to the Houghton collection, which was lamented as a national loss. Dr. Johnson, after having seen Luton Hoo, said "the number of the paintings was beyond expectation, and even beyond hope," the number of the first class alone being upwards of four hundred.

Built by Smirke.

Still, &c.

1629 (30).

1843.

In the month of November, 1843, a fire broke out, which destroyed the whole of the interior of this noble mansion, with the exception of the library. The noble chapel was totally destroyed. By the exertions of several gentlemen of the town, most of the paintings were preserved;—several beautiful specimens of marble vases, busts, and sculptured statues were also destroyed, with a great many other valuable articles.

The present possessor has restored the mansion to its former magnificence, and expended a large sum of money on its interior fittings for the convenience of his residence.

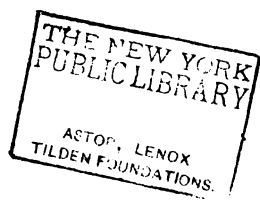
SOMERIES.

About two and a half miles east of Luton is the ancient village and manor of SOMARII, now Someries, which was held by the Somarii family before the Norman Conquest, and from whom it takes its name. It belonged to the Crown as appears from Domesday Book. "*Reginæ IV. uncias auri, & de summario & aliis consuetudinibus minutis LXX sol. & de consuetudine canum VI. lib. & X. sol. & de cremento quod misit Ivo Tallebosc VII. lib. ad pensum, & XL sol. albi argenti, & unam unciam auri vicecomiti.*"

The Someriis were Barons of note, according to Rapin, who in his History of England, vol i.,



SOMERIES CASTLE.



p. 333, and fig. 1, says that "Roger of Somarii was one of the twelve, chosen by the barons, to treat in the three parliaments, every year, with the king's council, for the whole community of the land."—He also says, p. 338, fig. 10, "that he was one of the barons who were taken prisoners at the battle of Lewes, in Sussex, in 1264." It was a place of great strength at that time, and well defended by a mound and deep ditch, which are still to be seen; it continued in the Somerii family until 1379, when it was given to the Wenlocks. About the year 1448, Lord John Wenlock built a large and sumptuous mansion of brick, of great strength, enclosed with a very strong wall and ditch; the gateway is still perfect, and some part of the tower and chapel are still standing. Gough says of the mansion "It is one of the most beautiful specimens in brick, of the Florid Gothic, that I remember." In the tower, or rather the gateway, are remaining fourteen or fifteen brick steps; and there was originally a hole, or pipe, which conveyed the lowest whisper from the bottom to the top. It is set on a hill, not far from St. Ann's Hill. At the death of Lord Wenlock, this estate, as well as Farley and others, were forfeited to the Crown; when King Edward IV. bestowed it on his courtiers. Thomas Rotherham, Archbishop of York, procured this, as well as Farley,

See 72. for his heir, John Rotherham. Pennant says that "John Rotherham, Esq., Farley, married Catherine, daughter of Lord Grey." Leland says that "he had with her, in marriage, Luton in Bedfordshire, and three hundred marks of land thereabout, and a fair place within the parochie of Luton, called Somerys." This accounts for her brother, Anthony Grey, eldest son of Edmund Grey, the first Earl of Kent, ^{and} that family, being buried in Someries chapel. It seems that this manor was held by one part of the family, and that of Farley by another; for we find also a John Rotherham, Esq., of Someries; and after him, his son Christopher, then his son Thomas, who died November 8th, 1502, aged 66 years. It continued in the family till 1601, when it was purchased, together with Stopsley and Luton, by Robert Napier, of Luton Hoo, whose property it remained till 1738, when Sarah, the wife of Sir Archibald Napier, died, and left the estate to Wm. Herne, Esq., who afterwards sold it to the Earl of Bute:—it is now the property of John Shaw Leigh, Esq.

Farle, Farleigh, now FARLEY, is one mile south-west of Luton, and in the township: it is a very ancient place, and was one of the five manses with its manors and lands, which King Offa gave to the Abbot of St. Albans, in 795: but it appears to have fallen again into the hands

of the king at the time of the conquest, and continued crown property until the time of Henry II., who gave the hospital of Farley to the great hospital of Sangtingfield, in Picardy, to which the master and brethren were made subordinate; and being an alien priory it was granted by Henry VI. to King's College, Cambridge, in 1379. Wm. Wenlock, Prebendary of Brownswood, in the Cathedral of St. Paul's, was made master of this hospital; he died in 1392, and was buried in Luton Church. This estate continued in the Wenlock family until the death of Lord John Wenlock; when it was, among his other estates, forfeited to the king, who either sold it or gave it to Thomas Rotherham, Archbishop of York, who left it to his heir; for in the next king's reign, John Rotherham, Esq., of Farley Hall, in Luton, was sheriff for the county of Bedford. King James on his progress in 1605, spent a night at Sir John Rotherham's, at Farley. The mansion and manor of Farley passed from the Rotherhams to Sir Francis Crawley, Knt., who married a daughter of Sir Thomas Rotherham—it has remained in the hands of the Crawleys ever since, and is now the property of John S. Crawley, Esq. It is at present a farm house and out-buildings.

About a quarter of a mile east of Farley, in the township of Luton and the manor of Wip-

persley, is STOKES, or STOCKWOOD, the seat of the Crawley family, after they removed from Haverings. The Mansion was built about the year 1740, by John Crawley, Esq., great grandfather of the present occupier, at the cost of £60,000, of good red bricks, and in a pleasant situation, surrounded with a lawn, well laid out, and planted with trees of various sorts; the house and other buildings have since been much enlarged and improved, and being stuccoed with a light colour, it presents a very pleasing appearance. The gardens have, during the last year, by the present possessor, been enlarged and most beautifully laid out, and are kept in high order; there are several forcing houses, containing very choice and handsome plants, much admired by the florist; it is now the seat of John S. Crawley, Esq., one of the magistrates of the county.

NETHER (*or lower*) CRAWLEY, where was an ancient seat of the Crawleys. Thomas Crawley lived there, and died in 1629: his son, Sir Francis Crawley, one of the judges of the common pleas lived there, and died in 1649, and his son Francis, one of the barons of the Exchequer, died there in 1682. It is now a plain farm house, the property also of John S. Crawley, Esq.

About half a mile further, on the road to Cockernhoe, is the manor of HAVERINGS. (This

must have been the residence of the Crawleys, and not the farm house now called Nether Crawley.) Here stood the principal seat of the Crawleys; it was large and grand, as the ruins which were lately dug up fully prove. The family moved from this place to Stokes, or Stockwood.

About half a mile from Luton, on the road to Nether Crawley, is CRAWLEY GREEN, consisting of three small farms and a few cottages; it took its name from being part of the possessions of the Crawleys; this place was formerly the rendezvous for the sports of the Luton gaiety. On the green there are still visible remains of the ring and entrance which formed the enclosed spot for bull baiting. The two cottages near the green were formerly one house, which at the time of the sports was a public-house, called the "Tin Pot."

EAST HYDE.

This is an ancient manor and hamlet, the mansion house and place of which, now called "The Hyde," is pleasantly situated on the top of a hill, three miles and a half east of Luton. Its name was taken from the family of de Hyde, who settled there at the time of the conquest.

In 1240 it was the residence of the illustrious Lord Alan de Hyde, who, with his wife Alicia, was that year admitted into the priory of Dunstable. The annals say that "he gave to the Priory one Virgate of Land in Chalton, one Virgate in Leegrave, and four shillings rent, and half a mark rent in Stopsley, and twenty marks and three shillings rent in Dunstable, for the maintenance of those who celebrated the anniversary in Dunstable Church to commemorate his soul therein." The following is the form of the grant which I have caused to be translated:—"Richard de Mori^{us} Prior of Dunstable, to all the faithful in Christ, health; Be it known to them, that by unanimous consent, we have received L^{ord} Alan, of Hyde, and Alice his wife, into the fraternity of our House, and moreover have obtained for them a canonical or secular Priest, as long as either of them shall live to minister in their own Chapel at Hyde, at the expense of the said Alan and Alice, and after their death we will assign to them a Priest by turns for a week to pray for them, and the souls of their ancestors, and successors, and relatives, and our benefactors and all the faithful dead; and they have commended and given their bodies to God, and St. Peter, and our Church, and we have written down their names to be noted and carried round to religious houses with

the names of our Priests and converts, and it is to be known also, that the prayers aforesaid are to be celebrated after their death in our Church of Dunstable."

(The chapel here alluded to probably stood in Bramingham Wood, near to the farm house which was the former mansion or residence, as several blocks of Tatenhoe stone, and a quantity of large flints were found in this wood about three years ago, when stocking up a portion of it; and its being so near to the old mansion house strongly increases the probability.)

In 1241, Walter Hyde, Knt., lived there, and the Prior let to him for ever, (a long lease) the lands and rents in Chalton, Leagrave, and Stopsley, (which the before-mentioned Alan de Hyde had given them,) for forty-four shillings a year.

In 1246 John de Hyde possessed it.

In the last century it was the property of Lady Cotton, who built the present house.

It was afterwards purchased by Dr. John Bettesworth, who was an eminent civilian in Doctors Commons, and, at the time of his death, Chancellor of the diocese of London, Advocate of the High Court of Admiralty, &c., and was son of the late Dr. John Bettesworth, Dean of the Archæy, and Judge of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

It was afterwards sold to Mr. Hibbard, and from him it was purchased by the Ames's, in 1833, by whom it was considerably enlarged

and improved. The present occupier is Lionel Ames, Esq., one of the magistrates for the county, formerly a captain in the army, and lieutenant-colonel of the Herts. Militia.

The CHURCH of EAST HYDE, which is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is not remarkable for any architectural beauty, but is simply and substantially built, and well adapted to the wants of this formerly neglected district. It was built by subscription, although its origin may, in a great measure, be attributed to the liberality of the late Marquis of Bute, who gave the site; to the family at the Hyde, who, besides contributing largely towards the erection and endowment, gave the organ and communion plate; and also to the exertions of the Rev. Thomas Sikes, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer to the building fund, and at that time curate of Luton.

The day of laying the foundation stone, by the late Mrs. Ames, the twenty-first of April, 1840, and that of opening the edifice, the subsequent year, will long be remembered by the inhabitants of the district, who, owing to the distance from the parish Church at Luton, were before in much spiritual destitution.

The Church is situated nearly in the centre of the four or five scattered hamlets which comprise the district, containing altogether a population of between six and seven hundred persons, of

which the Church is capable of accommodating about four hundred. Fifty of the sittings are let, and the proceeds go towards defraying the expenses connected with the public worship; the remainder are free.

The endowment consists of £45 paid annually by the vicar of Luton, and the interest of £1,100 invested in the three per cent. consols in the name of the trustees, besides which, the interest of £100 forms a repairing fund for the Church and Parsonage. The present trustees are the Vicar of Luton, *ex officio*, Lionel Ames, Esq., and —————

The parsonage house, at present occupied by the Rev. W. H. Iggulden, A.M., Curate of East Hyde, adjoins the church, and is in perfect keeping with it.

There are two schools in the district: the one on the Wheathampstead road is a neat and convenient room, built and supported entirely by the family at the Hyde. From forty to fifty children are there daily instructed. This school is an instance, amongst many, of the interest which the squire and his lady take in the welfare of the humbler classes.

The school at New Mill End, is supported by voluntary contributions, and is designed for the reception of infants, preparatory to their going to the Hyde school.

The late Mr. and Mrs. Ames, who contributed so much towards making this neighbourhood what it is, lie interred in the family vault in East Hyde churchyard, and a monumental slab is erected in the Church to their memory.

CHILTERN GREEN is in the Hamlet of East Hyde, and was anciently its village. The farm now occupied by Mr. Frederic Pigott was purchased by John Sibley, Esq., in 1535, for £1,100, who then removed from Hyde Mill, and resided at the farm house, which continued in the Sibley's family until the year 1833, when it was purchased by Lionel Ames, Esq.

About half a mile from the latter stood, until lately, an ancient farm-house, called the Well-house Farm.

About a quarter of a mile east of Someries, in the same hamlet, is COPT HALL, a neat and pleasant mansion house; it was, for seventeen years, the residence of the late Archbishop of Armagh, when vicar of Luton, and of the Rev. W. Mac Douall, who was Vicar until his decease. It is the property of John Shaw Leigh, Esq.

About three miles from Luton, on the road to Wheathampstead, is NEW MILL END, so called to distinguish it from the old mill at Hyde; and may now be styled the village of Hyde. It is a small place, containing a farm, mill, and several cottages.

STOPSLEY.

Scrobbale, (in Saxon;) *Scropes* or *Scroppeslie*, (in Norman;) *Shrubsley*, (in English;) meaning a hill covered with scrobbs, (shrubs or under-wood.) This proves Stopsley to be of Saxon origin, corrupted by the Norman, and still more by the English language.

Stopsley is a large hamlet and village, about two miles north east by north from Luton. It was a place of note some time before the Conquest. A branch of the de Hoo family, who possessed the manor of Stopsley, had a mansion there. The exact spot on which it stood is uncertain, but it was, probably, near to where the Tithe Barn stood, as there are traces of extensive buildings still to be seen near. There are several places with the name of Hoo affixed to them, such as—Hoo-hill, Hoo-lane, &c. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, this manor and Hayes belonged to the family of Catesby, and afterwards to that of the Cheynes’.

There are several farms, in the possession of different proprietors; the one belonging to Mr. J. M. Ashforth is a manor. A neat little Wesleyan chapel was built here, by subscription, in 1844, at an outlay, including ground purchase, of about £120. It will seat about ninety persons.

In the same hamlet is EATON GREEN, about two miles north east by east from Luton. It is an extensive farm, but not of particular note.

About half a mile further is Wigmore Hall, another farm in the same hamlet, recently erected, the old buildings having been destroyed by fire. It is pleasantly situated at the top of a hill, on the road leading from Luton to Wandon End. This and Eaton Green are the property of John S. Crawley, Esq.

About two miles and a half north east by east from Luton, in the same hamlet, is the manor of Great Hampstead, (anciently so called) now ROTHERHAMSTEAD; it appears to have been a large house, as the site, which is still very plainly to be seen, extends over several acres. This mansion was taken down, and nothing left but a small farm house that stood near it. About ninety years ago, this also was taken down.

This manor, as early as 1309, was in the baronial family of Somery. In 1464 it was conveyed to Lord Wenlock by the name of Great Hampsted Someries. This estate passed from the Rotherhams to the Crawleys, and is still in the possession of that family.

About a furlong south east of the latter place, on a rising ground, stands FALCONER'S HALL. It is a very lofty mansion, with thick walls of brick, with a porch of Totternhoe stone,

fronting eastward; the windows are cased with the same. It was probably built when Rotherhamstead was taken down, about the year 1550, as it is the architecture of that time: on the porch is scratched 1612. There is a court yard in front, surrounded by a ditch. It is now occupied, as a farm house, by Mrs. Davis, and belongs to John S. Crawley, Esq. The road from Luton to Falconers Hall is called Gallows Lane, from the circumstance of the gallows formerly being erected near the spot where the "Wind Mill" public-house now stands.

About a quarter of a mile east of Falconer's Hall, in a wood (now stocked up), called Round Wood, originally stood a house and small chapel, the foundations of which, and other buildings, may still be seen. They were built with rough bricks and Totternhoe stone, and the whole surrounded with a ditch. The place is still called Chapel-field, and the next to it, Chapel-common.

About half a mile from Falconer's Hall, on the foot-way to Luton, in a wood called Hassex, stood an hospital. When Samuel Crawley, Esq., destroyed his game preserves, this wood was cut down, which led to the discovery of the place where the building stood. It had been built with rough flints, and surrounded with a square ditch. The labourers, when stocking up the roots of the wood, found eighty-nine silver penny pieces,

of the reign of Henry VII. and VIII., which were as perfect as though just issued from the mint. On the west side of this, is Spittal Wood, now called Spittlesey Wood, the name of which has evidently been taken from the hospital before mentioned. We are told that one of the Crawleys of Haverings married one of the Rotherhams, and had with her, among other things, Rotherhamstead. About ninety years ago the Rotherham farm was added to that at Falconer's Hall. These also are the property of John S. Crawley, Esq.

In the same hamlet, viz. Stopsley, about a mile and a quarter north of Luton, is COWRIDGE END. From what its name is taken is unknown, but, being situated on the top of the hill, near the boundary of the township, and at the end of the common rights for cows,—it was probably, on that account, called Cowridge End. There were three farms, but the two small ones have been laid together, so that now there is only what is called the lower and upper farm; the upper one has been the residence of a superior family, as the house is large, well built, and lofty, with good rooms above. The beams are painted red, with inscriptions on them, in black letters. The fire-place is raised above the floor, and cased and lined with Totternhoe stone. Over the front door is a carved oak board, with the initials

"W. H. 1609. I. H." This might have been the time when it was built, although it is evident there was a house long before then, as there were two very large trees standing in front, which were felled about thirty-five years ago, supposed to be upwards of four or five hundred years old. This farm, and another in Church Street, Luton, (the latter of which has lately been sold to John Waller, senr., Esq.,) was the property of Mrs. Chew, of Dunstable, who died in 1693, and gave this place to her daughter Jane, and the farm at Luton to her daughter Frances. Mrs. Jane Cart gave it to charities at Dunstable. She died October 15th, 1736, aged eighty-three years, and lies buried at Dunstable. A monument is erected to her memory. About sixty years ago this farm house was occupied as a pest-house for private families, during the time of inoculation for the smallpox. It is now unoccupied. The lower farm is a smaller house, belonging to John S. Crawley, Esq. The Church Street farm also, being part of Cowridge End estate, was given to charities in Dunstable by Mrs. Frances Ashton, who died December 21st, 1727, aged eighty years, and was buried at Dunstable, where a monument is erected to her memory also.

About a mile from Luton, on the road to Stopsley, is a small piece of waste land, where

four roads meet, commonly called Turners or TENNANTS KNOLL, from the names of two men who committed suicide and were buried there. It has evidently been the burying place of those who have destroyed themselves for many ages, as several skeletons have lately been taken up when digging for chalk, and widening the road. A little further, on the road to Stopsley, is ROUND GREEN, where are a few cottages and two public houses; beyond which, on the left hand side, is Meux's or Mukes Hill, commonly called Mixes Hill. It is the property of William Irons, senr., Esq.

LYGEGROVE.

This place, now called LEAGRAVE, is a hamlet in the parish of Luton, and situate from it about three miles north west by west, near the river Lyge, or Lea, from which it derives its name. The Icknield Road, from Dunstable to Wilbury Hills, passes through it. It has been much larger than at present, for there are several moated sites, and other traces of buildings to be seen. It is an ancient place, as appears by the Chronicles of Dunstable, which say that "Alan de Hyde, in 1248, being admitted into the Priory of Dunstable, gave them one virgate of

land and four shillings rent, out of some messuages of Lygegrove." This manor was, from 1305 to 1455, in the family of the Lucys. Several cottages have recently been erected, and the population increased. There is a very neat and commodious Wesleyan Chapel, belonging to the Dunstable Circuit. There are five farms, four of which belong to Sir Edmund Filmer, Bart., and the other to G. J. Sullivan, Esq., which is called Purtan Farm, from a family of that name formerly owning it; it is now occupied by Mr. W. Partridge, and has been in the tenantry of that family upwards of a century.

About a quarter of a mile north east of Leagrave, is LEAGRAVE MARSH, where there is a very large encampment, containing about thirty acres, nearly of a circular form, except at the lower part, where it runs off to a point to enclose the head of the river Lea. The ditch is very deep and broad, and perfect in many places: no doubt it was a Roman Camp, as the Icknield road passes close to the south east side of the ditch, and several Roman coins have been found in the fields adjoining it. On the south west side stands a farm house, which is the property of Sir Edmund Filmer, Bart.

About a quarter of a mile west of Leagrave is the manor of Lucys or LEWSEYS; this manor was in the possession of the family of Lucys,

from whom it takes its name, from 1305 to 1455; it then passed into the family of Wingate, who were lords of the manor of Toddington. The old house stood partly in Luton parish, and partly in Houghton Regis parish, which at times caused trouble in parish matters. In 1832, the whole of the buildings, except the house, were consumed by fire, with most of the live and dead stock. The property belongs to the Duke of Bedford.

LYGEBURII.

This small village and hamlet, now called LIMBURY, is about two miles north west of Luton, and situated on the river Lea, from which it derives its name, and is about half a mile south east of the Icknield Road. It is an ancient place, and has been very extensive, as moated sites, and traces of large buildings may still be seen. In the reign of Henry I., we find Phillip de Lymburi having a dispute with the Prior of Dunstable; and, in 1283, the Chronicles of Dunstable inform us that the men of that place built "sheepcoates," &c., at Lymburi, and drove their sheep and cows there in order to avoid paying the Prior his tithes of lambs, milk, and wool. Newcombe, in his History of St. Albans, p. 256, mentions a famous knight, named Philip

de Limbury, who lived at Luton, a man of extreme pride and haughtiness, and of great interest with John, Duke of Lancaster.

Phillip de Limbury put John Moot, the cellarer of St. Albans Abbey, into the Pillory, in Luton market.

"Thomas Moot had ever shewn himself a strenuous defender of the Abbey's rights; and, in doing so, had either made or found a number of adversaries, one of these was a famous knight, Philip de Limbury, who lived at Luton, (in *Soka de Luton*). This Phillip, on Monday, being market day, in hatred of the Abbot, and in utter contempt of religion, seeing John Moot, the cellarer, riding through on his way from Hexton to the Abbey, caused him to be apprehended, and, without any charge, put him in the pillory in the public market. The Abbot prosecuted the insolent knight, and would have brought him to make satisfaction, if the Duke of Lancaster had not interposed, and, by his authority, brought them to concord. It was agreed that he should make atonement in no other way than by an offering on the altar—then leave being given, as he stepped forward, the blood gushed from his nose and he retired; he advanced a second time and his nose again bled; he requested to deposit the offering in a box, but this was not allowed; and after some pause he departed. The memory of the event (says Walsingham) struck many with admiration; the number present was very great; and it was considered among the superstitious, as a vengeance from the martyr, and by all the sober-minded and pious, that should caution bold men from offending God, or those who administer his worship." From the Life of Thomas I., Abbot, surnamed De la Mare, -30th Abbot of St. Albans, p. 226. Elected Abbot 1349.

It is now a small place, containing only a few cottages and two farms, one of which is a

manor, and belongs to James Waller, Esq., of Luton; and the other to Mr. Wm. Ewer, Lilley.

Adjoining to Limbury, on the east, is Bissops-coate, Bishopscoat, now Biscot, so named from being the property of the Bishops of Lincoln; it is a small village and hamlet, now joined to Limbury, as the writings express,—Limbury-cum-Biscot. It has been a much larger place, as there are still remains of several moated sites. There was formerly a considerable house for Nuns, founded by Roger, Abbot of St. Albans, and dedicated to the Holy Trinity; at its dissolution it was valued at £143 18s. 3d. There are only a few cottages and two farms remaining, which are the property of John S. Crawley, Esq. About a mile and a half north west by north of Luton, and in the hamlet of Biscot, on a rising ground, is a windmill, where, digging for chalk, several human skeletons have been found at different times, about which are various conjectures. Some think a battle has been fought there, but it is more likely that they were the victims of that pestilential disease—the small pox, as they lie buried in regular order.

About three miles and a half north west by north from Luton, is GREAT BRAMINGHAM, originally named Bragenham; it is a manor farm, in the hamlet of Limbury; the house is large, and belongs to Hammond Cross, Esq. Near to

it, on the north east side, is a treble row of ditches, known as Gray's, or Dray's Ditches, which run in a straight line from Bramingham to Wardon Hill, where they run aslant up the hill. The Icknield road passes through the centre towards Welbury Hills. There certainly has been a battle fought here, but by whom history does not say; probably it was between the Saxons and Danes, the former being encamped at Leagrave Marsh, and the latter at Ravensboro Castle, near Hexton, which Drays Ditches, being about an equal distance between each camp, and exactly on the road, goes very far to strengthen. When the new road was being made from Luton to Barton, several skeletons, a number of earthenware pots and urns, such as were used by the Romans for the purpose of enclosing the ashes of the dead, and some pieces of iron, of singular shapes, &c., were found here. The place took its name from the battle, viz:—*War-dun* (or down) hill.

About three miles north west by north from Luton, in the same hamlet, is LITTLE BRAMINGHAM farm, by which the Icknield road passes from Drays Ditches to Leegrave Marsh. On the south east side is a farm, the property of Mr. Cross, of London. Near to it, bearing a little to the left hand, on the way to Great Bramingham, is the celebrated Bramingham Wood, the

general rendezvous for fox-hunters, where they seldom fail to find sport; but, what is very singular, the foxes run direct for Barton Leys, and then to Hexton churchyard, where there are osiers and water springs, to which they take, and the hounds generally lose them.

DALLAWS, now DALLOW, is a manor in the hamlet of Limbury, about one mile west of Luton. It is one of the five manses or mansions given to the Abbey of St. Albans, by King Offa, in the year 795, the property of which it appears to have continued until its dissolution, when it was either sold or given away, and became private property. This place is remarkable as being the first where the dissenters of the Baptist denomination met for religious worship, in the persecuting days of Charles II., and there is still in the roof of the house, the trap door by which it was entered. When liberty of conscience was granted by James II, the members removed to Luton, and formed a church. It is now a farm, occupied by Mr. John Brett. The property belongs to C. Hale, Esq., Kings Walden, Hertfordshire.

About a quarter of a mile north of Stopsley, is the manor of GREAT HAYS. It derives its name from having been the property of the great John Hay, who repaired the Church, and benefitted the town. He was Steward to the

Archbishop of Canterbury, and lies buried in Luton Church. The manor house is the property of Mr. Morris, Buntingford, Herts.

About one mile north of Stopsley, is the manor of WHITE HILL, a large farm situate on the top of a high chalk hill, from which, most likely, its name is taken. It is the property of Wm. Sowerby, Esq. There is a well of the depth of two hundred and fifty feet, the deepest in the parish. Adjoining is a small farm, until lately the property of the Pigotts, and said to have been in that family from the time of the Norman Conquest.

About half a mile east of Luton is ST. ANN'S HILL, which took its name from a chapel there erected, dedicated to St. Ann; by whom or when it was built, we are not informed, but most likely by Roger, Abbot of St. Albans, in 1260, when he purchased half the Church at Luton, and built a chapel and nunnery at Biscot. Here was a mansion also, the summer residence of the Abbot of St. Albans. Leland's Itinerary, mentioning it from Camden, says, "The Abbot of St. Albans had a very pretty place called St. Anns." The foundations are still to be seen, and are of Totternhoe stone, about three feet thick. This chapel was destroyed at the general demolition of religious houses, and, together with Farley, came to the Crawley family by marriage.

de Norton.

About one mile from Luton, on a rising ground, was a Saxon encampment, through which now runs the new road to Barton. The labourers employed in making the road, dug out several earthen jars, capable of holding about a gallon each, and a quantity of broken pieces, made of coarse red earth, unglazed, which appeared to have been used as cooking utensils, as they were all burnt black on the outside. With them was found a large quantity of oyster shells buried in holes about three feet deep. There were also several places discovered, about two and a half feet deep, in which fires had been made, as the earth and stones were burnt to cinders; these extended a distance of about two hundred yards. The encampment was between the first and second bridge from Luton, and is surrounded by the river. From the old road which leads to Bramingham and Stokenbridge, when the bogs and adjoining fields were dug up to make osier beds, more earthenware pots were discovered, and a few British and Saxon coins. Antiquaries say that the Saxon soldiers were fed on oysters, which may account for so many shells being found here.

About half a mile further towards Barton, between the river and the old road, on a rising ground known as White Parrot, was another encampment; although scarcely any traces can

be seen, so as to form any idea by whom or when it was made; but it certainly has been occupied as late as the reign of Henry VII., for about twenty years ago, a gold mark, of his reign, quite new, and a few pieces of coin of the Edwards' were found after the plough, lying scattered about within the compass of three or four yards. Nearly every rising ground between Luton and Barton has, at some time, been encamped on, as the skeletons, pitchers, pieces of iron armour, coins, &c., that have been dug up prove. "Luton was noted for a few battles fought, the marks of which Barton Hills, a few miles from the town, bear."

In a wood between East Hyde, and Chiltern Green, is a pit of freestone, strongly impregnated with alum. Tradition says that the south porch of Luton Church is built with the same, if so, it is a very different stone from the rest of the building; it is of a dirt colour, and becomes damp at the change of weather for rain, and when touched with the tongue, strikes extremely cold and saltish; it is more friable than Totternhoe stone, and therefore unfit for durable buildings.

Beyond the park, in the hamlet of West Hyde, is Grave Wood, where there is a pit of very white and extremely fine grained chalk, sufficiently hard to bring to a point, and make use of in writing.

In the park, on the right hand side of the road, a little before you reach the mansion, and nearly opposite the rookery, in a dell, stood an oak tree, remarkable for its great height being about ninety feet; and the trunk, free from branches, upwards of seventy, which is extremely rare: perhaps its equal is not to be found in the country.

Near Stopsley, at what is called Lane Farm, stood the trunk of a very old oak tree which measured eighteen yards round the bottom part. It was hollow, and nothing left of it but the trunk and stumps of its branches, which were as large as a common sized tree, and was supposed to have been as old as that in the New Forest, Hampshire, against which the arrow glanced that killed William Rufus.

In Church Street, near the west gate of the Churchyard stands an old elm tree, called Buxom Tree. It was the May Tree, as its name imports, where the young men and maidens met to keep their May Day, around which they danced &c., as was the custom in earlier days. It was also the place where the Church Ale was drank. This tree was about eighty feet high, and rooks used to build their nests in it. The Stocks stood against this tree until 1702, when they were removed to the great Market House.

At the lower corner of a meadow, now laid into the Moor, stood a Pest House, built in the year 1724, and taken down twenty-five years ago.

The Common right for cattle originally extended from the horsepool, northward, to Stockenbridge, which is the end of the township, and the Lammas for sheep belonging to Stopsley, from Stockenbridge to the Sheepbridge. This last is now done away with, and the Cow Common cut off to where it now ends. Until about twenty-five years ago, Stopsley had a commonage on that part south of the horsepool called the Little Moor, which was exchanged for a piece of meadow, called Harper's Mead, at the back of the Gas Works. Since that time part of the great moor has been exchanged for land above Stopshort Houses, so that now the common right for cattle, or what is called the Moor, is undivided and enclosed.

On the right hand side of Castle Street, leading from the Market House, upon the site on which stands Mr. Richard Vyse's residence, anciently stood a castle, from which the street took its name: no traces of it remain except a mound and ditch: it evidently was occupied in Cromwell's time, as appears by the date of several tokens dug up on the spot.

On the left hand side of the same street, midway between the latter place and the market

house, stood Langley Mansion House. It was a manor, and came from the Crown to the Rotherham family, one branch of which is said to have resided there. It was very strongly built of stone and flints, and extensive. Part of the old buildings were used as a Parish Workhouse until the year 1766. Considerable portions of the walls remained in 1804, which were then pulled down by Mr. Francis Cook, woolstapler, to make room for the building of his house and warehouse.

This mansion, farm buildings, and Langley Meadow adjoining, with other portions of land in and about the town, was sold by John Rotherham of Much Waltham, in the county of Essex, Esquire, eldest son and heir of Sir John Rotherham, Knight, Sergeant at Law, to Dame Elizabeth Napier, who married Thomas, Lord Goward, for the sum of £2,000. The Deed bears date November 17th, 1721.

LUTON CHURCH.

This Church, dedicated to St. Mary, is built in the form of a latin cross, with the tower at the west end ~~in the place of intersection~~, and consists of a Nave and Chancel, the Wenlock Chapel, a Vestry on the north side of the

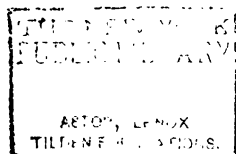


Luton Church.
From N.W.

A



Luton Church.
From S.E.



chancel, over which is a room, entered by a staircase from Wenlock chapel, two side Aisles, and two Transepts. The south transept has a small side aisle on the east, which was formerly called Hoo Chapel. There are two Porches to the side aisles, with a room above each, in which the priests are said to have resided; or, at least, they were rooms for their occasional use. The one on the south side is entered by a small trap door in the ceiling of the porch, and that on the north side is closed. The south porch is embattled with brick; the north west porch is built with brick, and is entered from Church Street through an avenue of chesnut trees, planted by Lawrence Clarke, (Fox) in 1791. At the west end is a lofty and handsome square Tower, of flint and stone in chequer work, at each corner of which, at the top, is an hexagonal turret, supported and strengthened below by buttresses of seven stages; the lower tiers were adorned with niches and statues, now much mutilated. The height of this tower, to the top of the turret, is ninety feet; a small leaded spire and cross rise about twenty feet higher. The south east turret rises from the ground, and contains a spiral staircase of stone. The west side has a beautiful arched doorway, without pillars, adorned with carvings of roses and other flowers, above which is a window, with interlacing arches.

The exterior of the Church now labours under many disadvantages, having been in part repaired, in a very bad style, with brick battlements; but it has, notwithstanding, on the whole, a very handsome appearance. Camden says, (*Britannica*, edit. 1637) "I saw a fair Church, but the choir then roofless, and overrun with weeds, and adjoining to it an elegant chapel, founded by Lord Wenlock, and well maintained by the family of Rotherham, planted here by Thomas Rotherham, Archbishop of York, and Chancellor of England in the time of King Edward 4th."

The length of the interior of the Church, from east to west, is one hundred and seventy-four feet; the width of the nave and aisles fifty-seven feet; the length of the cross aisle, from north to south, one hundred feet.

The nave and aisles are separated by five pointed arches on each side, the arch of the transept making a sixth; the ~~two western~~ ^{of the} arches have lateral arches, springing to the walls of the side aisles. At the west end is a lofty and noble arch, opening into the tower, having strong clustered columns, with foliated capitals, similar, though on a smaller scale, to those of York Minster, and those in the Cathedral of Milan. The nave, looking from the chancel, presents a fine arcade on each side. The effect

is, however, much diminished by the very plain style of the pillars, which are partly octagonal and partly clustered. The whole of the architecture is gothic; the body of the Church is said to have been built (more probable repaired) in the middle of the ~~fourteenth~~ century, by John Wheathamstead, Abbot of St. Albans, to which Abbey the Church belonged.

John de Wheathamstead, the twenty-third Abbot of St. Albans, appears to have been a man of high character. The name of his family was Bostock; he took the name of Wheathamstead from the village of that name near St. Albans, being the place of his birth, which in Saxon signifies *the place abounding with wheat*. He was a monk of Tinmouth, of great learning, godly life, and pleasant disposition; remarkable for building, repairing, and beautifying his own monastery, and the church that belonged to it. He built a chapel on the south side of St. Albans, where he is buried, which he dedicated to St. Andrew.

The nave and transept, which are about forty feet high, are neatly roofed with oak, in excellent preservation; it is, perhaps, Irish oak, which has the valuable property of repelling insects.

Over the north aisle are three neat small galleries, used as family pews. Over the south aisle, between the middle arches, was the gallery pew of Lionel Ames, Esq., formerly belonging to the Betterworth family, and afterwards to — Hibbett, Esq. This is now taken down.

At the west end is a modern gallery of wainscot, of a gothic pattern, the front is well

all taken away.

taken away.

There is a lion

guarded by a lamb from the evil spirit, under the form of a dragon. This baptistry is built of fine stone, and is now of a pure white. It was formerly painted, and gilt in a splendid but not very appropriate style—an instance of more liberality than taste—by the Archbishop of Armagh, who also ceiled the chancel and made a new east window therein.

Both now
removed.

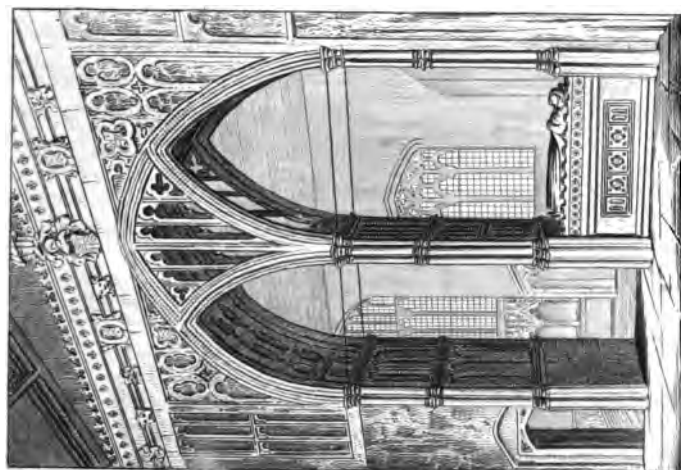
“The first fonts were set up in private houses, and then, after the Christians recovered from persecution, in safe and peaceful times, were placed a little distance from the Church or oratory: afterwards they were placed in the Church porch, and, lastly, in the Church itself, as they now stand, but near the entrance, because this is the sacrament of initiation, or admittance into the Church, and hath ever since retained the name of font or fountain, from the primitive use of baptizing in rivers or fountains. Anciently there was but one font in a city, and that in or near the principal church, which use is still continued at Pisa, Florence, and other cities in Italy.”
—From the *Antiquarian Cabinet*, v. 6.

Date c. 1380?

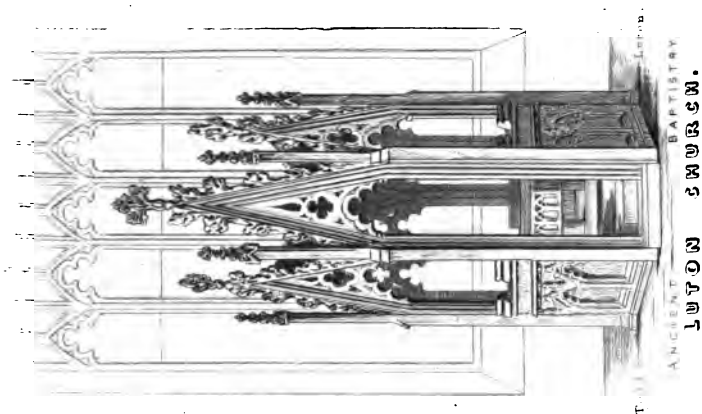
This baptistry is said, by the tradition of the place, to have been given to the church by Anne Boleyn, when queen; who, it also asserts to have been born here; she was certainly connected with the place, though we have no means of ascertaining this to be the fact. Another tradition, of perhaps much less authority, asserts that the tomb in Wenlock Chapel was erected as a monumental sarcophagus to her memory, by the inhabitants of the town.

Date c. 1400.

Pomfret, the poet, is alleged to have been born



ARCH BETWEEN WENLOCK CHAPEL AND THE CHANCEL.
LUTON CHURCH.



ANCIENT BAPTISTRY
LUTON CHURCH.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR LENOX
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

at Luton, of which his father was curate, and is said to have been afterwards vicar: but his name does not occur in the list of the Bibliotheca Topographica. (No. VIII.)

The Vestry, which is eighteen feet and a half by seventeen feet and a half, has a groined roof resting on a single pillar in the centre.

The Tower formerly contained five bells, of which the treble, called St. Gabriel's, was given by Sir Henry Hoo and his wife, in the time of Henry the 6th, and was ^{re}cast anno. 1670. On it was inscribed: "D'na Elizabeth uxor ejus Milli De: Celis habeo nomen Gabriellis." The Tenor, called Trinity, was of grand size, weighing five thousand pounds. Round it was written: "Trinitati Sacra hec Campana Beata." On another was written: "In God is all mi trust: 1602." Another was dated 1616. These have been recast and made into eight bells, with a ninth, a small alarum bell at the top of the south east turret, but not now used.

The first, or least bell, is two feet five inches in diameter, with this inscription: "Pack & Chapman, London, Fecit 1775. I'm light yet I'm good, I mean to make it understood."

The second is two feet five and a half inches, with this inscription: "Pack & Chapman, London, Fecit. Altho' I am but light and small, I will be heard above you all."

(a. beenden)
comp. the old
bell in the clock-
house at St. Albans

The third is two feet eight inches. This, with the four following, have no other inscription but the maker's name: "Pack & Chapman, 1775."

The fourth is two feet nine inches and a half; the fifth, three feet; the sixth, three feet two inches and three-quarters; the seventh three feet five inches and three-quarters.

The eighth, or largest, is three feet eleven inches, with the following inscription: "I.H.S., Nazarenus Rex Judeorum Fili Dei Miserere Mei. Josh. Fayre, St. Neots, 1761."

In the third floor of the tower is fixed the town or church clock, also an old chime barrel with a cog-wheel and part of a frame. Bloomfield said that "it had chimes," in his account of Luton between 1724 and 1734, also a role and frame for the purpose of drawing heavy weights to the top of the steeple.

There was a fraternity, or guild, in this church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, which was dissolved by Statute, ¹⁴ Edward VI.* The latter part of the ^{account} register book of this fraternity contains the court rolls of the Manor of Luton, from the tenth of Edward IV. to the ~~sixth of Phillip~~ ^{first of 2 Elizabeth} and Mary. This curious manuscript was in the possession of the Earl of Bute. There are no vestiges of any chapels of ease, but there formerly were several, as in a record of the year 1209, the vicar is said to have the tithes of all the

as well as the
Register (1475-1546)

* In 2 Edw. VI. its possessions were granted to Randolph Burgham and Robert Buryley.

1 Only extracts before 25 Hen. VIII.

chapels belonging to the Church of Luton. A private chapel of Hyde, belonging to Alen de Hyde, is mentioned in the Chronicle of Dunstable.

In the year 1502, Adrian de Castello, or Castell, an Italian, Vicar of Luton, was Bishop of Hereford; in the year 1503 he was advanced to the cardinal's purple, and in the year 1505, translated to Bath and Wells.

The Church is a Vicarage in the possession of the Rev. Alexander King, and is endowed with the small tithes of the whole parish, estimated value £1,350. The endowment of the vicarage is here subjoined, with a list of the vicars from the Lincoln register.

LUTON, (Co. Bedford) ORDINATIO VICARLÆ.

" Vicar in Eccl' de Luton que est Abbat' & Convent' St. 'Albani Auctoritate concilii ordinata est hoc modo. Vicarius habebit nomine vicarie sue omnes obvencoes et omnes minutas decimas Eccl' de Luton et omnium Capellarum ad eam pertinentium, et omnia alia ad eandem Eccl' et Capellas pertinentia, cum manso competenti, exceptis garbis et terra ad Ecclesiam et Capellas pertinent'; et Vicarius sustinebit omnia onera Ecclie parocalia, synodalia, archidiaconalia, ordinaria et consueta, A.D. 1209." Reg. H. Wells, fol. 7. A. in the Bishop of Lincoln's Registry.

VICARS FROM THE LINCOLN REGISTER,

And as appears by entries made in the Register Book of Baptisms, Deaths, &c., for the Parish of Luton.

John de Wildon, 18 kal., Jan., 1316.

John de Standfordham, 3 id., Mar., 1331.

Andrew Power, 7 id., Apr., 1349.

John King

*Rich. Tiff. Ant.
no. VIII. p. 52.*

Wm. de Chambr¹¹⁷⁴e, 6 kal., Mar., 1349.

John Lyberd, 2 non., Aug., 1353.

Roger Burgh, 1 Mar., 1444.

John Lammar, 22 July, 1454.

^{Richard Bernard} Adrian Castellan, 5 Nov., 1492. ^{Cardinal, Bp. of Norw.} 1502.

Edward Sheffield, 9 May, 1502.

Richard Doke, 31 Mar., 1526.

John Gwynneth, Dec. 23, 1537.

Thomas Rose, 1563.

George Mason, 1 Dec., 1558.

Wm. Messyn, 10 Mar., 1562.

William Herne, 18 June, 1574,

B. c. 1593.

Bartholomew Harney, 1669.

Thomas Pomfret, 1679.

Christopher Eaton, 1718.

Christian Eston, 1740.

*or Eaton. ^{Stute} ~~Blank~~ note 2
+ ~~Blank~~. 31*

George Barnard, 1746.

— Pryor, died 1779, was buried at Repton, in the County of Derby, where he was appointed head master; he was succeeded by

William Stuart, 1779, youngest son of John, 3rd Earl of Bute.

Stewart Corbett, 1796.

Dr. Hall, Dean of Christ Church, afterwards of Durham.

William Mc' Douall, 1827. He was 22 years vicar.

Thomas Sykes, M.A., 1849.

Thomas Bartlett, M.A., the present vicar.

The Vicarage House is on the north east side of the church yard, a plain brick building, much enlarged and improved by the Rev. Thomas Sykes, M.A., while Vicar of Luton, and beautified by the erection of a conservatory at the south end. At the same time he purchased

*Thomas Rose, mentioned by Foxe as being a wealthy do son of
Sover-lant, near Harwich, where he pulled down the woodmen -
(Luton, Waller)*

several acres of meadow land adjoining the grounds and laid them to the gardens, well planting them with shrubs, making the residence a most delightful spot.

The Church Yard contains two acres three roods.

The following is an extract from a copy of a Terrier of the account of Ecclesiastical Property drawn up for the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, in the year 1822, at his visitation, held at Luton.

“Item.” There is also due to the minister for every burial, 1s. 2d.; for every marriage by licence, 5s.; by do. of publication by banns, 3s. 6d.; for the publication of banns, 2s.; one half of which is to the minister and the other to the clerk. No fee either to minister or clerk for baptism, but 6d. is generally paid for making the entry in the register. To the minister, for every thanksgiving of women, 6d. To the clerk, for every burial, 10d.; for every marriage by licence, 2s. 6d.; by banns, 1s. 6d. To the sexton for making a grave and tolling the knell, 1s. 6d.”

There is an old edition of the Book of Martyrs in the vestry, given by John Adams. On the outside of the cover, inclosed in glass, is inscribed the following: *in gilt capitals, on leather -*

“ This Book of Martyrs
was given unto the Church of
Luton by John Adams, 1606.”

The old Desk still remains in the chancel, to which the bible was chained by command of Henry VIII. Miles Coverdale translated the Scriptures into our language in the year 1535,

and in the following year Henry VIII. commanded that a copy of each translation should be placed in the chancel of every church, and chained, that everybody might go and read God's Word.

There are some very ancient Tombs in the church, and there have been many more than are discernible now.

✓ "Robert Hoo was a great man in the days of King Canutus, the Dane. He married Anne, the daughter of Idenor Guido, Lord Griffith of Wales, who died the 26th of October, Anno..... and lieth buried in this church, where his arms were depicted with those of his wife. Hoo & Griffith, B., a griffin rampant with wings displayed, O." (Sir Henry Chauncey, p. 510.)

✓ "Sir Thomas Hoo married Amy, daughter of Sir William Wa^unton, Kent."—*Ibid*. He died the 19th of October, 1018, and lieth in this church. Hoo & Wa^unton, A., a chevron, S.

✓ "Sir Robert Hoo married Beatrice, daughter of Alexander, Earl of Andivel, in Normandy."—*Ibid*. He died the 9th of May, 1310, and lies buried in this church. Hoo & Andivel, O., a fess, B.

✓ "Anthony Grey, eldest son of Edmund Grey, first earl of Kent of that family."—*Vinc. cont. Brook*, p. 287. Died without issue before his father, and was buried in this church.

“Wm., son of Reginald de Mohun, Lord of Dunster, the second and last earl of Somerset of that family.”—*Ibid.* He was seized of the Manors of Luton in Bedfordshire, and various others; he died in the tenth ¹²⁸¹⁻² year of Edward I., and is supposed to be buried here. The exact spot where these are interred is not known.

On the south side of the chancel is a very handsome arched recess, having its roof very delicately groined, almost like net work; ~~on the front of the pediment~~ ^{handrails,} at the top, are bears, ~~carved in stone.~~ ^{chained & muzzled} Pennant speaks of a recess, doubtless the same, containing the figure of an abbot (of St. Albans, as he supposes, to which the church belonged,) with a crosier; this is now entirely gone, and the recess is occupied by a handsome, modern, pyramidal marble monument to Mrs. Harriet Gutteridge, and railed in with small iron rods. On this is written:

Sacred to the Memory of
Harriet Gutteridge,
Wife of James Gutteridge of Eaton Green,
Obiit the 21st June, 1819, aged 44 years.
Also of the above James Gutteridge,
Obiit the 11th of July, 1831,
Aged 68 Years.

In the same wall of the chancel, under the window, are four niches, arched; over the arch-work are eight coats of arms carved in the stone; over them is written in ancient characters:

Removed —
Now in his days.
July 1878.

The scutcheon.

"Val les ha bun da bunt Val les."—
(*The valleys, the valleys shall abound.*)

The arms are, first, a chevron between three ears of wheat, each three tied together; the arms of JOHN DE WHEATHAMSTEAD, Abbot of St. Albans. The second, two chevrons between three roses; the arms of ^{Bussell}WICKHAM, BISHOP OF WIN-
~~chester~~. The third, three crowns; the arms of KING EDMUND, (~~or Mercia.~~) The fourth, a saltire; the arms of KING OFFA, (St. Albans Abbey.) The fifth, four lions rampant. The sixth, a cross flowery between five martlets; the arms of EDWARD THE CONFESSOR. The seventh is the same as the second, and the eighth the same as the first.

On the same wall is a neat marble tablet, commemorative of William Stuart, Archbishop of Armagh, on which is written:

In the same vault
with the HONOURABLE WILLIAM STUART, D.D.,
Primate of all Ireland,
are deposited the remains of his Widow,
The HONOURABLE SOPHIA MARGARET,
the last surviving grand-daughter of
WILLIAM PENN,
the celebrated founder of Pensylvania,
Born 25th December, 1764,
Died 29th April, 1847.
Also of LOUISA, their youngest Daughter,
who departed this life 20th September, 1823,
Aged 22 Years.

Under this is another marble tablet, on which is written:

Near this place
are deposited the mortal remains of
WILLIAM STUART,
late Archbishop of Armagh ;
youngest son of John, third earl of Bute, by Mary,
only daughter of
Edward Wortly Montagu Esqr.,
who departed this life May 6th, 1822,
in the 68th year of his age.
He was for 17 years the active, zealous, and
conscientious Vicar of this Parish,
from whence, in 1795, he became Bishop of St. David's,
and in 1800, Archbishop of Armagh,
in which arduous and eminent station he was
characterised by the same qualities
which had distinguished the commencement of
his ministerial duties as
Vicar of Luton.

On the same wall, nearer west, is another marble tablet, placed there by the Rev. Thomas Sykes, M.A., late Vicar of Luton, on which is inscribed:

Sacred
to the Memory of Helen,
the Wife of the
Rev. Thomas Sykes, M.A.,
Vicar of this Parish,
and eldest daughter of the late
William Burr, Esqr., of the same place.
She was born 29th April, 1805,
and died 19th March, 1853:
her remains are deposited in a vault at Broadwater,
Worthing, Sussex.

On the north wall, in the chancel, is an affectionate tribute to Theodosia, wife of the late Samuel Crawley, Esq., of Stockwood:

Sacred to the Memory of
 Theodosia Mary,
 the beloved, now unceasingly lamented, Wife
 of Samuel Crawley, of Stockwood, Esqr.,
 by whom, in admiration of her virtues
 and out of respect to her memory,
 this monument has been erected.

They were married June 19th, 1817:
 she died January 3rd, 1820, leaving one child.

Her virtues were indeed of that superior cast
 as to, at once, pronounce her the most perfect of beings;
 her faith and hope in Christ steadfast;
 her temper angelic; her heart warm and affectionate;
 her friendship sincere;
 as a wife and mother she was a pattern:
 In a word, she was faultless—matchless—without equal,
 and has left her husband inconsolable;
 her infant her uniform virtues,
 the best inheritance.

She was, indeed, too good for this world;
 and the Almighty claimed her for his own,
 that he might confer upon her
 the prize of everlasting life in heaven,
 the just reward of her virtues in this world:
 and as procured for her by the mediation
 of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Oh, world! thou art indeed a loser,
 She the gainer of immortality.

Near to the above, on the same wall, is a beautiful marble tablet, on which is inscribed:

In Memory of
 The Rev. William Mc'Douall, M.A.,
 Canon of Peterborough and Vicar of Luton.
 He was fourth and only son leaving issue,
 of John Mc'Douall, Esqr., of Glasgow,
 the brother of

Patrick, fifth Earl of Dumfries.

Born 29th April, 1775, died 15th December, 1849.

This tablet is erected by his surviving children,

MDCCCLIII.

On the same side of the chancel, near the door is a large arch filled in with plaster; on the north side, by the vestry door, is a niche in the wall; against the same wall hangs the surcoat, &c., of the late Sir John Napier, and a hatchment bearing quarterly of nine coats.

not there now -
1873.

As you enter the chancel from the middle aisle, lies an ancient grey marble—figures and inscriptions gone; at the foot of this is another inlaid with brass, with the portraiture of a man, armed, his two wives, one son, and six daughters; on which is inscribed in ancient characters, the following:

" Off yor charite pray for the sowllis of Joh'n Sylam, Elizabeth and Jo'ne his wyffois, the whych Joh'n deceased the X day of Juin, in the yere of our Lord MCCCCC and XIII, on whose sowllis Ik'u have m'cy. Amen.

Next to this is a similar stone, with a figure engraved thereon, from the mouth of which proceeds a scroll, with the following inscription:

" Miserere mei Deus."

and at the foot is written, on a brass slab, in ancient characters:

*"Hic jacet Edwardus Sheffield utriusq juris doctor, Canon-
icus eccl'ie Cathedralis Leichfelden' et vicarius istius eccl'ie ac
rector eccl'ie p'och'is de Camborne in Com Cornub. and yatt in
com'. Glocestr', qui obiit.....die mens'.....anno D'ni
M^o V^o.. cyj' a'ie p'picietur Deus."*

[xxv]

He was Vicar of Luton in 1502.

At each corner of the stone is a shield bearing a chevron between three garbes, quartered with a frett.

This brass plate is now lying in the vestry room window, and it is hoped will be preserved. A few portions of old brasses are in the parish chest. A great quantity, in the last century, was melted down to make a chandelier for the church, which is now lighted with gas.

On the next stone was engraved, on brass, a man with his two wives, (the latter are now missing) with this inscription:

*"Hic jacet Hugo atte Spetyll et Alicia uxor ejus cum
d'no Joh'ne filio suo primogenito, quorum animabus p'picietur
Deus. Amen."*

Between the latter stone and Wenlock chapel, on the floor in the chancel, is a plain stone to the memory of William Herne. He was Vicar of Luton ¹⁵⁷⁴ ~~nineteen~~ ^{— 93} years. Only the following portion of the inscription, which is rudely engraved, is legible:

.....E MIHI
HERE LYETH THE BODY

OF WILLIAM H... E,
VICAR OF THIS PLACE
XIX YEARS. WH....C.

Heme

.....

.....

EDITH VI. F.....H.

.....

AS TIBI.

In front of the altar lie three modern stone
slabs, on one of which is engraved:

The Honourable and most Reverend
William Stuart, D.D., Archbishop of Armagh,
Lord Primate of all Ireland:
died on the 6th May, 1822, aged 67 years,
Also Louisa Stuart, the youngest daughter,
who departed this life September 29, 1823, aged 22.

✓

On another:

The Honourable
Sophia Margaret Stuart,
Born 1764, died 1847.

✓

On the other:

Here lieth the body of Georgiana Stuart,
daughter of the Right Honourable Lord
William Stuart, Capt. R.N.,
and Georgiana his wife,
Born July 1st, 1807, died June 5th, 1833.

✓

Near to these is a similar slab, on which
is engraved:

Here lieth the Body of Isabella,
daughter of the late John Mac Douall, Esq., of Glasgow,
younger brother of the late
Patrick Mac Douall Crichton,
fifth Earl of Dumfries,
who departed this life May 16, 1843, aged 65 years.

✓

Also of Elizabeth,
 daughter of the late Ebenezer Mac Culloh, Esq.,
 of Edinburgh,
 by his second wife, Penelope, sister of the late
 Patrick Mac Douall Crichton,
 who departed this life May 15, 1844, aged 81.
 Also of the Rev. William Mac Douall,
 for 22 years Vicar of this Parish,
 to whose memory a tablet is erected in this chancel.

Within the passage of the chancel, leading from the nave, lies also an ancient stone, the figure of which is now lost, but the brass plate with the inscription in ancient characters, which is in the church chest, runs thus:

*"Orate pro a'i'a mag'ri Joh'is Penthelym utriusq; juris
 baccallaurii, quondum vicarii hujus eccl'ie qui obiit XVIII
 die mensis Februarii anno d'ni mill'mo CCCC° XLIII°.
 Cujus anime p'picietur Deus. Amen.*

On the north side of the chancel, somewhat elevated, is a spacious Chapel, said to be founded before the year 1461, by John Lord Wenlock, a favourite of Henry VI. It was most likely rebuilt by him, and founded by his ancestors. Bloomfield says: "Under which is a fine vault that opens into the church yard, and is now used as a chancel-^{read} (~~charnel~~) house." This ancient crypt is now closed. This chapel opens into the chancel with two curious arches, adorned with gothic work and imagery. Under that of the west arch, on an embattled altar-tomb, is a recumbent figure of a priest in a praying posture,

painted in proper colours, his vestments or robes being scarlet, with a mantle of black velvet, from his hands hang a rosary, and from his mouth proceed two scrolls, on which is written:

"*Th'u fili Dei miserere mei. Salve ^{regina} Maria Mater misericordie.*"

at the end of the scroll is a small shield, A. a chevron between three crosses flowery, G. There are also several shields, bearing the same round the tomb itself, and within the arch, at the top, are shields, bearing the arms of Lord Wenlock. Round the verge of the tomb is the inscription—that on the chancel side, thus:

"*...Ilemus hic' tumultatus; de Wenlock natus: in ordine presbiteratus: alter hujus ille: dominus meus fuit ville: hic jacet indignus: anime Deus esto benignus.*"

This William was prebendary of Brandeswood, in the church of St. Paul, in London, before the year 1363; he was Rector of St. Andrew's, Holborn, London, which he resigned in 1362, probably when he took this prebend. He was presented to the Rectory of East Hanningfield. In 1379, April 4th, the king made him Custos of the Hospital of Farle, in Bedfordshire. He died in 1392, and was buried here.—*Newcourt's Repertorium*, Vol. I., fol. 120.

On the side of the tomb within the chapel is engraved, in ancient characters:

"*In Wenlock brad I: in this toun lordshcippes had I: her am I now lady: Christes moder help me, lady: under these*

stones; for a tym shal I rest my bones: deyn mot I ned ones: myghful God gra't me thy wones. ame'.

In the north wall of this chapel are two noble alter-tombs, canopied over. That at the east end of the wall was enriched with the portraits of a man and his wife; but these, with the inscription and arms with which it was once adorned, are now gone.

The other altar-tomb, at the west end of the wall, had on it, engraved in brass, a man kneeling against two women, with an inscription and arms: these also are all gone. These altar-tombs are supposed to be the Rotherhams of Someries. According to the Will of Archbishop Rotherham, bearing date 1498, his mother and brother were interred in Luton Church. *Remant* says: "On one had been an inscription to a Rotherham who had married Catherine, daughter of a Lord Grey; and was himself nephew to Scot, alias Rotherham, Archbishop of York. *See list*

Near to these, on the floor, lies a large stone, with the portraits of a man and his wife, (the latter only remains) with two sons; there were also two or three daughters, now lost, with five shields of arms. On the middle part of the top of the stone, is a pendant shield. On the verge or outer edge of the stone is written:

See 24.
How? f ✓
Rotherham?
 "Orate pro animabus Thome d'ni de Luton in Com' Bedford et d'ne Katherine uxoris ejus, qui quidem Thomas

obiit XXVI die mensis Maii anno quorum a'abs'
p'picietur Deus.

Adjoining, on the south side, lies a very large stone, on which was, in brass, the head only of a man, his wife, and an inscription, all gone.

In the middle of this chapel is raised a curious Altar-tomb of grey marble or stone, the ledger or top stone richly inlaid with brass, where, under a gothic ornamental arch of brass is the portrait of a veiled lady: inscriptions and arms gone. Round the verge was also an inscription, now gone. Tradition says this was erected to the memory of Anne Boleyn—that Lord Wenlock intended it for his own place of sepulchre, but, losing his life at the Battle of Tewkesbury; he was buried in the conventual church of that place.

Removed to the eastern arch betw. this chapel & the chancel —

On the floor, close by the latter, lies a large black marble gravestone, on which is carved a shield, bearing on a fess, between three storks, as many cross crozlets, under which is written in capitals:

This is a mistake - his body was carried elsewhere for interment - probably to Luton.

Here ly the bodys of
 Thomas Crawley
 of nether Crawley in ye parish
 of Luton, in ye county of Bedford,
 Gent., who dyed ye 15th Dec., 1629.
 And of Sir Francis Crawley, Knt.,
 one of the Judges of the Common Pleas,
 who dyed 13th February, 1649.
 And of

Francis Crawley, son and heir of the said Francis Crawley,
one of the Barons of the Exchequer, who dyed
25th February, 1682.

Richard Crawley, Esq., also lies buried here.
He died at his house in Doctors Commons,
London, March 21, 1712.

John Crawley, Esq., of Stockwood, his grand-
son, is buried under the altar.

South of the last lies a large Sussex Marble,
on which were the portrait of a man in complete
armour, and his wife, with inscriptions, all now
missing.

Adjoining this is a small stone, on which
was a figure and inscription, now gone.

About the middle of the chapel, on the floor,
lies a black slab, with the inscription:

Here lies the body of
Archibald Napier, Esq.,
who departed this life the 2nd of February, 1719, aged 40.
and also of Sarah, his wife,
who departed this life March 19, 1738, aged 68.

On another slab close by, is written:

Here lyeth the body of Elizabeth Napier,
daughter of Archibald Napier, Esq., late of this parish,
who departed this life, April the 25th, 1723,
in the 21st year of her age.

Against the ^{North} east wall, on a small brass plate,
is written in old English letters:

*" Here lyeth Roland Stap, late Cetezen and clothworker
of London, who deceased the IXth daye of February, Ao.
1558, and Dorothe his wife, who dep'ted ye XXVII of October,*

*of the N.
cath.*

1565, and left behynd them leving III sonnns and III daughters, to saye, Richard, Edward, James, Jone, Alias, and Marye, and ye said Richard, his eldest sone, dep'ted the daye of Ao Domini.....

The windows in this chapel have been profusely ornamented with stained glass, and there are still considerable remains in the upper part of the two northern ones, and the east window has been nearly filled with it. In one of the northern windows is the coat or arms of Wenlock, in the garter, viz: A. a chevron, S. between three blackmoor heads, S. - Wenlock quartering^{Quarterly}, A. and S. in the first a lion passant G. - Hoo. I'hu over a chalice in glory, I'hu, marcia in single panes. H^ola and a rudder, frequently repeated, and wheat ears, O.

North -

In the other north window are the same arms.

In the east window is the portrait of a man kneeling upon his surcote—the same as in the north window. Round his neck is a collar of roses and stars^{stars}, alternately mixed; the stars^{stars} have a pearl/ on each point: before, hangs a lion couchant. There still remains, also, a figure of St. George on foot, with a red cross on his breast, attacking the dragon. Beneath are five men and women, in blue furred gowns, in an attitude of prayer. A half female saint M. and I., frequent also in single panes. All the arms are in garters, which show that the Lord Wenlock

marcia

see p. 76.

built this place. The same arms are all over Wenlock tomb, carved in stone. The windows are scattered all over with these words: "Jesu merci," and "Hola, Mary, Jesu, mercy."

There was formerly in this window, Wenlock's portrait, now destroyed or removed, with the following inscription:

"Jesu Christ, most of might,
Have mercy on John le Wenlock, knight;
And of his wife Elizabeth,
Which out of this world is passed by death:
Which founded this chapel here.
Help thou them with your hearty prayer,
That they may come unto that place
Where ever is joy and solace."

This inscription may be seen in the Harleian M.S., in the British Museum, No. 1531, fol. 15.

An ancient oak screen, rich and elaborately carved, opens into the north transept.

On the south side of the chancel, ascended by a few steps, is the South Chapel, formerly appropriated to the use of Sir Theopolis Napier, and called Hoo CHAPEL, which was undoubtedly founded by the family of that name, who from a very early date possessed the Hoo Estate, and who are said to be buried here.

During the present year the floor has been lowered, and newly paved with square black and red paving tiles. The screen dividing Wenlock chapel from the north transept has been removed and restored by John S. Leigh, Esq., and placed between the south transept, and Hoo Chapel.

*2nd. all the
The screen
now (1873)
in the N.
transept.*

*have a few years since. W. Leigh (c. 1867?)
gave it up, & it was placed in the N. tr.
The screen now in the S. tr. is chiefly new,
but some lower panels of the wood screen
are worked up in it.*

*South Chapel -
The screen / mostly
from the wood
screen of the N.
transept*

This chapel bears indications of its being of very ancient structure. In the east wall is a niche with roof of carved stone work, in which is a stone bason for the holy water. In the south wall was a similar one; one half of which is bricked up and plastered, the other half removed, the doorway occupying its place. In the chapel hung three Hatchments: the first bore Napier; another, bearing the arms of Ulster, had under it a small brass plate, inscribed;

*" Quod intus situm terris reliquit
Honoratissima Dna Penelope Joannis Comitiss
de Bridgewater filia ex Francisca Comitiss
Derbiensis Cohæredum vna Roberti Napier
de Luton Hooe in Com. Bedf. Equitis et
Baronetti conjux dilectissima:
Caetera in Coelis quædere.
Illuc enim abiit Quintilis secundo,
MDCLVIII.*

Under is a shield bearing Napier and Egerton. The other hatchment bore ermin on a bend, S., three mullets, O., quartered with A., a fess between three holly leaves, A., with a label of three points, B. The first and third are now gone.

In this chapel are two windows east, and one south. In each there are still remains of stained glass. In one of the windows there is the figure of a priest remaining, very beautiful and complete.

** Rymer?*

Under the floor is the Family Vault of the Stuarts and Napiers, in which have been interred ~~the remains of~~ fifteen bodies. Only five leaden coffins remain, with the bones of the remaining ten. There are also four plates with coats of arms over each, except the last, with the following inscriptions:

The Honourable Sir John Napier, Bart.,
died August 15th, 1711, in ye 79 yr. of age.

Nobil Ira Avito Viret Honore.

The Lord

George Stuart, Rear Admiral of the Blue,
Born 1st March, 1780, died 19th February, 1841.

A.D. ulterior.

Sir John Napier, Bart., died January 2nd, 1747—48.
aged 43 years.

Mr. Alexander Napier, died October 20, 1711, aged 23 yrs.
being the 10th son of Sir John Napier and Eliza, his wife.

In the nave of the church are many ancient stones with the inscriptions lost. The following are those which remain: Leading from the chancel is a stone inlaid with brass, with the portraits of a man, his wife, and one daughter: the wife and inscription missing. Near it lies a black marble inscribed:

Here lyeth the body of

Michael Knight, Gent., who
departed this life September 6th, 1697.

At the foot of this is a black marble slab:

Sacred to the Memory of Alexander Deacon,
of Great Bramingham in this parish,
who died the 12th March, 1813, aged 65 years.

Also Mary, his wife,
who died 30th of March, 1816, aged 65 years.

Also Thomas Deacon,
son of Alexander and Mary Deacon,
who died 23rd August, 1829, aged 57 years.

Also William Deacon,
son of Alexander and Mary Deacon,
who died 10th November, 1830, aged 55 years.

On a large stone near to the last-mentioned,
at the foot of a portrait of a man and his wife,
is written in ancient characters:

Pray for the soules of John Lamar and Elynor his wyfe,
whych John decessed the XVII day of Novembre, in the yere
of our Lord M^oVXII, and the said Elynor decessed the
day of in the yere of our Lord M^oV,

On whose soules Ihu have mercy. Amen.

Beneath this were six sons and four daughters;
now removed and placed in the church chest.

At the foot of the last is another stone, inlaid
with the portrait of a man, two children, and a
woman—the man and child now missing; under
them is written:

“ Of your Charite pray for the soules of John Barber
and Agnes his wyfe; the which John decessed in the yere of
our Lord God MCCCCXV, on whose souls I’hu have mercy.
Amen.

Under this inscription was the portrait of a
man and another inscription—both gone.

At the head of the last was an ancient stone,
on which was engraved on brass, a man and his
wife, as in their winding sheets, their sons, five
daughters, and coats of arms—all gone.

On a stone, towards the west end, was the following circumscription in large ancient characters:

Hic: Jacet: Dominus: Gilbert quondam

Rector dyoces: qui: obiit: annos:

Su.... ob: oe To primo: cujus:

anime: propitietur: Deus: Amen.

In the north transept aisle is an ancient inlaid stone, with a man between his two wives; under the first are two sons and four daughters. The inscription, in old English characters, thus:

Of your Charite pray for the sowell of Robart

S.... Annys his wyves, the whych Robart

decesseyd the in the yere of or Lord God

A° M° CCCCC, on whose so....

On the next stone was the portrait of a man in complete armour, with four shields of arms—gone.

In the north aisle lie buried several of the family of the Rotherhams, viz: at the east end on a large stone was inlaid with brass the portrait of a man between his two wives; under was written in capitals:

Hic jacet Georgius Rotherham nup'de Farley armiger, qui duas in vita sua, duxit uxores, quarum prima fuit Elizabetha bardolfe filia Edmundi bardolfe armigeri per quam tres viventes reliquit liberos. Scil't Georgium radulfum et Elizabetham: altera vero fuit anna gower filia Gulielmi gower armigeri per quam quatuor habuit liberos scilicet isaacum Thomam Edmundum et annam qui quidem Georgius Rotherham ex hac vita migravit quinto die Novembris. Anno D'ni MDXCIII.

under were their children; three boys and four girls. These are preserved in the church chest. ?

At the head of the last lies an ancient stone, the brass almost entire, with a man in armour, between his two wives, his head resting on his helmet, which has a hand proceeding from a ~~ducal~~ ^{graphing a script} coronet. The inscription is in old English, and is as follows:

Pray for the soules of John Ackworth, s^ruyer and Alys and Amy, his wyfes: whyche John decessed the XVII day of Marche the yer o' Lord M^o V^o XII; on whose soul J^hu have m'cy. Amen. ✓

Under them are eight sons and nine daughters; at each corner of the stone is a shield, bearing on a chief indented, three crowns, quartered with as many roses. Round the slab is the following curious mixture of English and Latin:

O man, whoe'er thou be, timor mortis showlde trowble the. !

For when thou leest wenyst veniet te mors superare;
And so grave grevys: ergo mortis memoreris.

I^hu mercy: Lady helpe: mercy I^hu.

At the head of this, on a small stone, was a man and his wife. Under is the Merchant Tailors' Arms, viz: a tent-royal between two parliament robes, on a chief, a lion of England, and inscribed in ancient characters:

Of your Charite pray for the soule of Anne Warren dowg . . .
unto Thomas Warren, gentyلمان, and sometyme wyfe . . .

Robert Colshill, Merchant Taylor of London, the . . .
Anne decessyd XIII daye of Maye, in the yere
Lord God, M^o VXXIIII, on whose soule Jesu have . . .

In the north transept aisle was a similar stone, inlaid with brass after the same manner, on which was the figure of a man between his two wives; it had the same arms as the former, except a shield. At one corner were the following words, which are now gone:

..... of May, in the yere of owre Lorde God....

In the middle of this aisle lies a large stone, on which was the effigy of a man between his two wives, under was written:

In two columns -
 ✓
~~Quem mortis rethe cicius attraxerat ad se.~~
 Anno millemo C quater semel L quoque quino
~~Febrilis et~~
 Uxores duxit vivens Annam et Isabellam;
~~Febrilis et~~
 Presulis Anglorum primi fuerat senescallus;
~~Annis et~~
 Largus, honestus erat, hanc ecclesiam reparavit,
~~Ut super~~
 O Qui transitis precibus mediare velitis
~~Ut super~~
 Quem mortis rethe cicius attraxerat ad se
 Febrilis deno mensis quoque lumine trino.
Misplaced.
 Fertilis Anna fuit, sobolis experts Isabella,
 Annis terdenis vir providus atque benignus
 Atque vias altas quas flexit de a.
 (Ut super astra Poli vivam cum.)

These plates are preserved in the church chest.

There are several other ancient stones in this and the middle aisle, the effigies and inscriptions of which are now gone.

In the middle aisle, near the centre, lies buried the Rev. Corey Copleston, who died November 23, 1800, aged 84 years. He was twenty years Curate at Luton. It is to be regretted that a slab is not placed to mark the spot, where so

venerable and good a man lies. His son, Thomas, was the first that introduced Wesleyan Methodism into the town of St. Alban's.

In the south transept, close to the baptistry, on the floor, is a marble slab with the following inscription:

Beneath this stone
is interred the body of
John Clementson, Esq.,
late of Copt Hall in this Parish,
who departed this life 24th April, 1805.
in the 71st year of his age.

Close by is a small square stone, with the initials thus, F. H., 1811.

Under the font is the family vault of Mr. Hamson.

In the passage leading from the south transept to the middle aisle, was a small stone slab, with the name, "John Sibley." This now lies in the south aisle.

Mr. Yardley's vault is in the south transept. Mr. John Chase's, Mr. Brett's, and Mr. Fossey's are in the north transept.

In the centre of the middle aisle, leading to the chancel, is a large black slab with the following inscription:

Beneath this stone
are deposited the remains of Susanna Smith,
wife of Thomas Smith and eldest daughter
of Alexander and Mary Deacon,

of Great Bramingham in this Parish,
who departed this life the 22nd of January, 1840,
aged 69 years.

Also of the above named Thomas Smith,
who departed this life the 15th of February, 1852,
aged 81 years.

As you enter the west door of the church,
on a freestone at the entrance is this inscription:

Here lieth the body of
John Trustram, who departed
this life the 26th of October, 1733, in the
55th year of his age, and of Tho.
Trustram, his son, who departed
this life 31st of Decr., 1722,
in the 20th year of his age.

On the west wall at the north end, by the
same entrance, is a very beautiful and chaste
marble tablet, (the work of the celebrated
sculptor, Costa, of Florence,) to Mr. Thomas
Waller, on which is inscribed:

Thomas Waller,
died 17 May, 1845,
aged 50 years.

*Uncle to John
now of Luton.
1871.*

In the centre is a pedestal, with an urn on
the top. On its base is a coat of arms^x; beneath
it a scroll, on which is inscribed;

Hic Fructus virtutis.

On the left is a figure representing Mercury,
the genius, or protector of commerce, and who is
supposed to lament over the departed. On the
right is a female, at whose feet is the figure
of a stork: these are emblematical of maternal so-

^x The well-known coat of Waller (without right?) inscribed several
quarters -

licitude and affection. The stork holds a stone in its talons, which alone is figurative of maternal solicitude and watchfulness: the two figures complete the allegory, and convey the ideas of grief, affection, solicitude, anxiety, and all the other tender emotions of a bereaved wife and mother.

On the floor, under the above tablet, lies a slab, on which is written:

Here lies the remains of James Waller,
who died Feb. 10, 1806, aged 55 years.

I once like you, could walk and view, the tombs of friends
interred;

Ere you like me, not long will be: go hence, and be prepared.

Also, Ann, wife of the said James Waller,
who died January 14, 1836, aged 78 years.

Also Francis, son of

Thomas and Jane Waller,

who died July 8th, 1828, aged 2 weeks.

Also Samuel, son of Thomas and Jane Waller,
who died March 10th, 1835, aged 7 months.

Also Thomas Waller,

who died May 17, 1845, aged 50 years.

Close by the above is a black marble slab,
on which is written:

Sacred to the Memory of Ann Fossey,
who died March 10th, 1823, aged 75 years.

Nearer to the south entrance is another, with
this inscription:

In Memory of Zoe Brett, wife of

Mr. John Brett, jun., of Luton Bury,
who departed this life May 17th, 1826, aged 23 years.

Also her infant, John Braddock Brett,
who died May 28, 1826, aged 3 months.

In the centre, leading to the middle aisle, lies another, on which is written:

Here lieth the body of Thomas Mason,
who died Decr. the 11th, 1754, aged 38 years.
Also Ann, daughter of the above Thomas Mason,
died August the 20th, 1753, aged 8 months.
Also Elizabeth, daughter of the above Thomas Mason,
died February the 28th, 1755, aged 7 years.

At the foot of this lies an ancient marble slab—figures and inscription gone. Round the margin are the remains of letters, but not legible.

On an altar-tomb which stands at the south west corner of the tower, is inscribed the following:

Thomas Gilbert here doth stai,
Waiting for God's judgement day,
Who died August the 25th, 1566.

In the south aisle is a long list of benefactors, the benefactions being principally of small value.

At the west end of the south wall, under an arch or niche in the wall, is an altar-tomb, on which lies a rude stone figure, at full length, of a priest, on a double cushion, supposed to be an abbot of St. Alban's. His bones formerly lay on his coffin which stood in the niche, his effigies being carved on the coffin lid. Bloomfield, in his account of Luton, says, "I saw the bones, and they are exceedingly dry."

This is now railed off from the church, to

Open 1873

*See p. 2.
Gilbert - p. 80.*

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enclose the vault of Mrs. Morris. The following is inscribed to her memory:

This monument

is erected to the Memory of Mrs. Valentinea Morris,
relict of Thomas Morris, Esq., of St. Andrews, Holborn,
deceased,

who departed this life the 28th of February, 1776,
aged 67 years.

A dutiful but much-grieved daughter, and sincere friend,
mourns the loss of an affectionate and tender mother,

but does not grieve as one without hope;

But relying on the promises of a merciful Saviour, that she

shall meet her dear parents in the mansions of true

happiness, never to part any more, and there join the

cherubims and seraphims in hymns of triumph to sing

loud praises to the Almighty, and their souls to be

absorbed in their praises of their God.

On the same wall is a tablet, on which is
inscribed:

Near this place

lieth the body of

Thos. Morris, Esq., of St. Andrews,

Holborn,

who died Dec. 15th, 1763,

aged 58 years.

Close by is another:

In Memory of

Martha Morris,

daughter of Thos. Morris, Esq.,

and Valentinea, his wife,

who died Nov. 21, 1796,

aged 55 years.

On the west wall, at the south side of the

and was a very eccentric person, obstinate in elections, &c. He applied to Mr. Marsom to make a conveyance of some property, who, instead of making it freehold made it leasehold, so that he lost his vote. This so exasperated him that he called Marsom a rogue, for which, to avoid a prosecution, he was forced to sign a recantation, which was published in a newspaper. By the advice of his friend, Thomas Procter, (another very eccentric character) he had his coffin and slab-stone engraved in his life-time, and used his coffin as a cupboard. Procter wrote an epitaph for himself as follows:

Here lies the body of Thomas Procter,
Who lived and died without a doctor.

But this was of no use to him, for he broke his leg, and was obliged to have one.

At the foot of the latter lies another stone, with the inscription gone.

A little lower is a stone, on which is engraved:

Here lies the body of Charlotte Sibley,
youngest daughter of John and Susanna Sibley,
of Chiltern Green, in this parish,
who died January 29th, 1770, aged 9 years.
Also the body of William Sibley,
second son of the above John
and Susanna Sibley, who died
November ye 10th, 1770, aged 23 years,
together with those of the said John Sibley,
who died April 28th, 1780, aged 69 years.

And of Susanna his wife,
who died November 4th, 1808, aged 92 years.

Philadelphia Sibley,
Obt. 15th, October, 1812, aged 78.

There is a complete set of Copper Measures, from one gill to a bushel, and Weights, from one dram to a half-hundred weight, kept in the church, for the adjustment of measures and weights. A small charge is made by the parish clerk, for every adjustment. They were given by the late Marquis of Bute, to the churchwardens and vicar, ex officio, for the use of the parishioners of Luton. The cost exceeded a hundred pounds.

TITHES.

The Great Tithes are now divided amongst several proprietors, and there are several farms within the parish which have never paid tithes, and are considered tithe free. The Great Tithes of the hamlet of Stopsley belong to Trinity College, Oxford. The Tithe of the township of Luton, and the hamlet of Limbury-cum-Biscot belong to John S. Crawley, Esq., of Stockwood. The Tithes of the hamlet of Leagrave belong to Sir Edmund Filmer, Bart.; and those of the hamlets of East Hyde and West Hyde, to John Shaw Leigh, Esq., of Luton Hoo.

The Rectory and Church of Luton formerly belonged to the Abbey of St. Albans, given by King Henry II. Newcombe, in his History of the Abbey of St. Albans says, "that in 1219, a very long and expensive suit, respecting the Tithes of Luton was finished by the mediation of the Bishop of Salisbury and the two Abbots of Westminster and Waltham, who were appointed for that purpose, by letters from the Pope. The Abbey, having the Church of Luton with all its Tithes, Lands, and Glebes, had instituted a vicar, (the vicarage was endowed in 1209: the endowment is in the Register of the Bishop of Lincoln) but had not ascertained his right, or clearly fixed his revenue. It was determined that the Vicar should be presented to the Bishop of Lincoln, to be instituted, and that his maintenance should arise from some fixed property, viz: All the small tithes and obventions, and be entitled to all the obventions paid or given to the Chapels belonging to the Church of Luton."

The vicarage is endowed with the tithes of hay and wood, which were probably granted to the vicar at this period, out of the rectory.

It is also stated in the same book "that among the earliest and largest of the donations with which the Abbey was endowed, was the manor or manors contained in the parish of Luton, together with the tithes."

In the Ecclesiastical Taxation of Pope Nicholas IV., A.D. 1291, the rectory is valued at £66 13s. 4d., and the vicarage at £16.

Newcombe says: "These all remained with the Abbey of St. Albans until the Dissolution in 1539, at which time the same was obtained by Sir Thomas Pope, and settled on his new endowment of Trinity College." Newcombe must be mistaken in supposing that *all* the tithes in the parish were settled on Trinity College, as the tithes of the hamlet of Stopsley only, at present, belong to that college. It is most likely that the tithes of the parish were then severed, and separate grants were made of the tithes of the township and the different hamlets, which now belong to four different proprietors. This seems most probable, for in a deed bearing date 4th December, in the twenty-second year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, it is there recited, that on the 20th April, in the fifth year of the reign of King Edward VI. (1552), he did "demise to farm to John Fothergill, Gent., (amongst other things,) all and all manner the Tithes of Sheaves, of Blades, and Grain, yearly, in the towns of Luton and Chally, commonly called Luton, which John Dermer then late had, and one Barn erected within the Manor of Dallow, situate near the great gate of the said manor, and all the Tithes and Hereditaments of

the New Mill End, West Hyde and East Hyde, and one Messuage and Tenement, and all Lands and Meadows, Pastures and Hereditaments which did belong to the Monastery of St. Albans, and which were demised to John Tymmys, by indenture bearing date January 31st, in the twenty-sixth year of Henry VIII. (1535,) for the term of thirty one years."

It is also recited further that the said King did "demise, grant, and to farm, let to John Fothergill, all and all manner the Tithes of Grain, Sheaves, and Blade, yearly, and from time to time coming, growing in and upon lands in Bescote, Lymbery, Bramhanger, and Woodcroft, and which were demised to farm, by indenture bearing date December 16th, in the eleventh year of the reign of King Henry VIII. (1520,) to Andrew Braye and William Perret, from the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, 1534, unto the end of the term of forty-one years, (except all great trees and woods upon premises.)

The same deed further recites, "that Robert, *Cotton* Abbot of St. Albans, did grant and let to farm, to John Tymmis of Luton, the Tithes of the Township of Luton, which John Dermer then had, and a barn in the Manor of Dallow, with other tithes, &c., from the Feast of the Nativity of St. John which will be in the year 1549,

until the end of thirty-one years, for £43, i.e. £23 for the Township and Barn at Dallow, and £20 for Tithes in New Mill End, West Hyde, and East Hyde.'

It is recited also, that her majesty Queen Elizabeth, in the fourteenth year of her reign, 1572, bearing date December 20, did "demise to farm to Edward Litgrave, then, or late, in the tenure of John Fothergill (part of the possessions lately granted to the Lord Reginald, late Cardinal Pole) for twenty-one years, for £10 yearly." Mr. Caley, in his paper of searches for tithes, says, "that he had at length succeeded in discovering to whom the Rectory of Luton was granted away by the crown. The information thus obtained is to the following purport:

In the minister's account, (thirty-fifth of Henry VIII., 1544,) of the possession of the late Monastery of St. Albans, in Luton, John Mynley, the Crown's bailiff and collector of rents, answers under the title of Farm of Tithes, in the Parish of Luton, demised to various persons £92, viz: £43 for the farm of all Tithes of Corn within the villages of Luton and Challney, called Luton Tithes; £10 for the farm of all tithes in Littgrove, in the Parish of Luton; £15 for the farm of all Tithes in Biscote and Limbury, Bramhanger and Woodcroft, in the Parish of Luton; and £24 for the farm of all Tithes of Corn, in

Stopsley, in the Parish of Luton. It will be remembered that Luton, in this account, is not called a rectory.

In an account, however, of the fifteenth of James I., (1618), Luton Tithes are thus answered for.

RECTORY OF LUTON.

Account of £42 15s. 8d. for the farm of all those Tithes in Luton, commonly called Luton Tithes, which John Dormer lately held, and all those Yearly Tithes, to the same rectory belonging or appertaining, so demised to Edward Wingate, Esq., by letters patent, for a term of years, rendering therefore an entire rent of £43, whereof apportioned by commission for the temporalities of the same, 3s. 4d., and for spiritualities, as above.

SUM OF CHARGE, &c.

Discharged here because the late Queen Elizabeth, by her letters patent, under her Great Seal of England made, bearing date at Westminster, the 4th of December, in the twenty-second year of her reign, gave and granted to George Wingate, and Robert Wingate, Esqrs., their heirs and assigns for ever (amongst other things) all that the Rectory of Luton, with its

rights, members, and appurtenances whatsoever, and all those annual tithes, commonly named Luton Tithes, as all other Tithes and Profits whatsoever, to the same Rectory in anywise belonging or appertaining, to have to the aforesaid George and Robert Wyngate, their heirs and assigns, for ever, together with the issues thereof, from the Feast of St. Michael, the Archangel, then last past (except always, nevertheless, to her Majesty, her heirs, and successors wholly reserved, all advowsons, donations, free dispositions and right of patronage of all churches, vicarage chapels, and other ecclesiastical benefices whatsoever, to the premises thereby granted, or to any parcel thereto belonging, pertaining, appendant, or incumbent,) for the sum of £2,720.

By this same grant the other tithes in the Parish of Luton seem also to have passed to the Wyngates, but not under the name of the Rectory. (The Wyngates lived at Harlington, and were the ancestors of the late John Wyngate Jennings, of that place, whose daughter married George Pierce, Esq., now residing there.) The Wyngates are supposed to have conveyed the Tithes of Luton to the families of the present proprietors.

The Manors of Dallow and Farley are Tithe-free.

TITHEABLE LAND IN THE PARISH.—JANUARY, 1839.

From the Reference Book to Davies' Map.

PLACES.	ARABLE.	PASTURE.	WOOD.	HEMESTRAD	WASTE.	UNKNOWN	TOTAL.
Luton Township ..	A. E. P. 1357 2 8	A. E. P. 515 1 33	A. E. P. 56 0 5	A. E. P. 55 3 14	A. E. P. 0 3 33	A. E. P.	A. E. P. 1985 3 13
Stopsley	3427 3 21	324 0 33	112 1 29	33 0 29	0 0 26		3897 3 18
West Hyde	1487 0 31	595 3 3	349 2 13	27 1 2	54 3 10	77 0 13	2591 2 32
East Hyde	1248 3 28	314 3 3	223 2 2	25 0 27	14 0 33		1826 2 13
Limbury-cum-Biscot	2528 3 5	330 1 34	89 1 25	21 1 5	1 0 25		2975 0 14
Leegrave	1267 1 24	140 0 6	0 1 15	13 2 27	5 3 24		1427 1 16
Roads, &c.					490 2 1		490 2 1
	11317 2 37	2220 2 32	831 1 9	180 1 24	567 2 32	77 0 13	15194 3 27

CHARITIES.

Edward Vaughan, of London, Esq., by his Indenture of Feoffment, dated 5th November, 1602, did give, grant, and confirm, Three Messuages or Tenements, standing together on Tower Hill, in this town, and an Orchard and Garden to the same adjoining and belonging, in trust, for the only proper use of the poor people of the town of Luton, for ever.

Thomas Atwood, of this town, Yeoman, by his Indenture, dated 21st May, 1810, did grant and confirm One Annuity, or yearly Rentcharge of Forty Shillings, issuing out of a capital messuage called Langleys, in this town, and Land thereunto belonging; and also out of Kitnowe Closes, in Trust, for the benefit of such old, aged, lame, blind, or impotent men or women, inhabitants of the town or parish of Luton, for ever, as the vicar, churchwardens, and overseers of the same town and parish, for the time being, shall think convenient.

Thomas Crawley, of Kimpton, and Edward Crawley, of Barton, did, by their Indenture of Feoffment, dated 13th of September, 1624, give, grant, and confirm a Messuage or Tenement, with the appurtenances, standing next the Tythe Barn in this town, and Five Acres of Land in the Common Fields of Luton, in the occupation

of Abraham Crawley, in trust, to sustain and amend the Parish Church and Steeple, for ever.

George Rotherham, of Summeries, in this parish, Esq., by his Indenture, did grant and confirm an Annuity of Four Pounds a year, issuing out of a Messuage in this town, called Lawleys, in trust, to amend the Parish Church and Steeple, for ever.

Robert Napier, the elder, of Luton Hoo, Bart., by his Will, dated 15th April, 1637, gave unto the Parish of Luton, for ever, his Four Houses, on Tower Hill, in this town, the churchwardens of the parish to place therein four poor persons, with the consent of his heirs that should be; also, by the same Will, he further gave to twenty-six poor people, Two Shillings a week in Bread, to be issuing out of his Breech Farm, in this parish, and to be given them by the said churchwardens, with the consent of his heirs, every Sunday, after Divine Service, for ever, £5 4s. 0d.

George King of this town, Maltster, by his Deed, dated 16th May, 1642, gave Fifty-two Shillings a year, payable quarterly, issuing out of two picees of Land in Blackwater Field, in this parish; one piece thereof containing six acres, and the other three; in trust, that the same should be weekly laid out by twelve-pence a week in Bread, and the same to be distributed every Sunday in the year, for ever, amongst such

twelve poor people of the parish of Luton, as the churchwardens and overseers of the poor, for the time, of the same parish, should think needful.

Elizabeth Winch, of this town, Spinster, by her Will, dated 5th November, 1660, gave a Piece of Land of Seven Acres, in Burge Field, in this parish, in trust, to Let the same, and, yearly on St. Thomas's day, for ever, distribute to and amongst the poor people of the town of Luton, the rents and profits of the said piece of land.

Cornelius Bigland, of this town, Barber Surgeon, by his Will, dated about 1679, gave Six Pounds a year, issuing out of his messuage with the appurtenances, in this town, called the Old Tavern, in trust, to be disposed of in the clothing, maintaining, schooling, and educating Six poor children of the town of Luton, for ever.

William Crawley, of this town, Maltster, by his Will, dated 13th September, 1682, gave unto the poor of the parish of Luton, for ever, a Piece of Land at Stocken Bridge, to be distributed by the churchwardens only.

Roger Gillingham, late of the Inner Temple, London, Esq., deceased, by his Will, dated 2nd July, 1695, gave Ten Pounds a year, issuing out of his Manor of Shitlington, for ever, to such Schoolmaster as should be nominated and appointed by Sir John Napier, of Luton Hoo, Bart., and his heirs, male, so long as such issue should

continue Lords and Owners of the Manor House and Park of Luton aforesaid; and on default thereof, then as the right heirs and assigns of the said Sir John Napier, who should be Lords and Owners of the said Manor House and Park for the time being, should direct and appoint, for the teaching gratis such poor children of the parish of Luton as should be nominated by the said Sir John Napier, or the Proprietors of the said Manor House and Park aforesaid.

Sir Theophilus Napier, Bart., by his Will, dated 28th December, 1715, gave to the poor of the parish of Luton, conformable to the Church of England, Five Pounds a year in bread, to be given them by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of this parish church, every Sunday Morning, immediately after Divine Service, for ever.

Thomas Long, Citizen and Merchant Taylor of London, by his Will, 25th October, 1756, gave a Thousand Pounds to the churchwardens of the parish of Luton, to be laid out in South Sea Annuity Stock, in Trust, for the use of the master and boys of the free school of this town; Fifteen Pounds, part of the dividends thereof, to be yearly paid by the said churchwardens to the master of the said school, and the residue thereof for the putting boys, belonging to the said school, apprentice.

John Richards, of the town of Luton, Tin

Plate Worker, by his Will, dated 11th May, 1731, gave his messuage, with the appurtenances, standing between the White Horse Inn, and the Harrow Inn, in Luton, in Trust, to put five boys to school with the master of the church school of the same town; and, also, every Sunday Morning, for ever, immediately after Divine Service, to give and deliver to six poor widows of the same place, who do not receive collections, one loaf of bread of the value of two-pence.

Elizabeth Rotherham, late of Kensington, in the county of Middlesex, Widow, did, by her Will, dated 23rd of March, 1715, give and devise unto her daughter, Talbot Creed, and her heirs, a Close of Land, called Hurtwood or Hawtwood Close; a Moiety of a Close, called the Brooms; a parcel of Arable Land, called Hawthill, in this parish, subject to the payment of two pounds and twelve shillings a year, to the overseers of the poor of the parish for the time being, to enable them to lay out twelve-pence every Sunday in the year, for twelve penny loaves of bread, to be distributed every Sunday to twelve poor women of the parish, that day present at Divine Service.

The preceding charities may be classified under five heads, with the present annual value to each, viz:—Bread Fund, £15 8s. 0d.; Apprentice Fund, £10 18s. 4d.; Educational Fund, £36;

Church and Steeple Reparation Fund, £61; and Distribution Fund, £82 16s. 0d.; Total, £206 2s. 4d.

There were also four Cottages left by some person unknown, for the use of poor families. They were situated in Middle Row, where the shop and premises now occupied by Mr. Phillips, chemist, stand. These were exchanged, with the consent of the parishioners, at a vestry meeting, (with advantage to the poor, then considered,) for three Cottages in Pound End. They are under the control of the churchwardens. The old cottages in Middle Row, were occupied, partly by poor widows and other persons placed therein by the churchwardens and overseers, and partly by the parish paupers, the overseers of the poor paying for the occupation by the latter a yearly rent of £43 to the churchwardens, which money was applied, after providing for the repairs of the cottages, in purchasing coals for the poor of the town of Luton, or such other manner for their benefit, as the minister, churchwardens, and overseers, from time to time thought expedient.

Since 1806, the messuages given by Vaughan and Sir Rt. Napier, which had fallen into decay, have been taken down, and new cottages have been gradually erected on the site thereof, the expense being provided for by the application of

the £43 per annum, and by money contributed by the parish.

The free school referred to in Long's Will, was a school formerly kept in the church, which had no permanent endowment, and was discontinued on the establishment of the national school.

The rents of Winch's Charity were, until lately, expended by the trustees in purchasing coals, which were sold at a reduced price (one shilling per bushel) among poor persons of the parish of Luton, and the price received for the coals expended in like manner, one bushel only being sold to each poor family or housekeeper. At present it is distributed by giving away one hundred weight of coals, annually, to such poor old widows and families as are deemed the most needy.

Lawley's Charity, alluded to in Geo. Rotherham's Charity, is West Luton Farm, but it is now chargeable on some houses near the church gate, in Church Street, payable by the Rev. Thomas Sykes.

WIDOWS' ROW.

On the left side of London Road, leading from the Market Place, is Widows' Row, containing twelve cottages, built in 1818, and given upon

Trust for ever, by Robt. Hibbett, Esq., of East Hyde, January 2nd, 1819, for the residence of twenty-four poor widows, or other persons belonging to the parish; and for their support, the interest arising from certain sums of money advanced on mortgage, (at the discretionary power of the trustees for the time being) after deducting all expenses for repairs, &c. The annual amount received by each is, generally, about £10, paid monthly, commencing at the termination of their first year's occupancy. There is a proviso in the Trust Deed to this effect, "All persons excepted that have been in any gentleman or lady's service within twenty years of application, shall not be admitted." The object of the donor in making this exception, was to prevent any lady or gentleman from taking advantage of this charity, by placing their servants there after they had rendered them their best services. The original trustees were Robert Hibbett, Esq., (the donor) Leonard Hamson, Banker, and Mr. Richard Mark Brown, Breach Mill. The present trustees are Mr. Richard Mark Brown, Breach Mill, Rev. T. Sykes, Mr. C. Austin, Mr. C. J. Beale, Mr. Henry Coles Brown, and Edward Williamson, Esq.

There is considerable property in the parish of Luton, given for charitable objects at Dunstable, and other places.

Richard Mantell, in the year 1577, "gave and bequeathed unto the use and relief of the poor people of the parish of Dunstable, two Closes of sward, opposite the Park Lodge: that nearest the London road, abutting a house, and measuring 1A. 2R. 18P.; the other more west but adjoining, containing 1A. 2R. 22P.:" both pieces are now occupied by Mr. Daniel Gutteridge.

Jane Cart, in the year 1724, gave upon Trust, to the use of the Free School at Dunstable, for the teaching, clothing, &c., of forty poor boys in the parish of Dunstable, and other charitable purposes in the same place, a Farm, lying and being at Cowridge End, containing 52A. 0R. 5P., now in the occupancy of Mr. Daniel Davis. Also 64A. 0R. 39P., part of which is situated in the township, and part in the hamlet of Limbury; this is in the occupation of Mr. George Gregory.

Frances Ashton, sister of the above-named Jane Cart, in the year 1727, gave to the same charitable purposes, at Dunstable, a Farm and Malthouse, containing about 116 acres, lying within and about the township, which, until lately, was occupied by Mr. Daniel Davis. Some of these lands have been sold; other portions exchanged, and tenanted by various persons.

Marshall's Charity, given for charitable purposes at Wheathamstead, consists of premises

called the "Swan" public house, occupied by Mr. John Dunham, and is situated on the road leading from Luton to Wheathampstead; also 30A. 3R. 8P. of land, rented by Mr. Wm. Dalton, the whole of which are in the hamlet of East Hyde.

MILLS.

According to Domesday-Book, Luton had six Mills; the annual rent of which, together, was one hundred shillings. There was one called Lea Mill, let to the Prior of Dunstable, in 1247, for ten years, at eleven marks.

Long before.
About ninety years ago, a Post Windmill stood at High Town, which belonged to Josh. Everitt; (windmills were invented in the year 1299,) it was blown down by a strong wind. At Rye Hill stood another, belonging to Mr. Freeman, which was burnt down in 1783. A little nearer the Villa, stood a Smock Windmill, the property of Mr. Williamson, who then lived in Church Street Farm. This was burnt down on the 5th November, 1795, the same year as the great flood. Another Smock Windmill stood at the back of Mr. George Gray's cottages, Old Bedford Road, which belonged to Mr. Cook, Woolstapler. This was burnt down in 1812.

The old Post Mill, at Biscot, was burnt down by lightning, July 3rd, 1841. A new Smock Mill stands on its site. An old Post Mill stood near the Breach, which belonged to R. M. Brown, and was blown down by a hurricane, December 19th, 1845, burying a man in the ruins.

There are now two Windmills, both of them smock; one at Biscot, the other situated between the Villas and Rye Hill, and the New and Old Bedford Roads.

There are four Watermills, viz: the North Mill, so called by being at the north end of the town, belonging to Lord Bute. The Breach, New Mill End, and the Hyde, are the property of John S. Leigh, Esq.

There is a Steam Mill in connection with the Watermill at the Breach, fitted up by the occupier, Mr. R. M. Brown.

PLACES OF WORSHIP.

THE FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE

Stands upon a piece of ground, used also as a burying ground, on the left side of Castle Street, a short distance back from the front entrance, containing about twenty poles, purchased of Samuel Chase in the year 1799, for the sum

of £105. It is a very plain and neat brick building, measuring about forty-two feet by thirty feet, built in the year 1799, at the cost of about £628. It has a gallery at one end, and will accommodate about two hundred persons. This is the first building in the town that was slated.

Previous to the erection of this building, their meetings were held in a place at the top of the yard, now the property of Mr. Henry Pearman, and formerly in the possession of Mr. Adams, brewer and baker. This was a small building of brick and stud, and capable of holding about sixty persons. It was fitted up for their convenience, at an annual rent of £2.

Before this they usually attended the meeting house at Dunstable, not having suitable accommodation at Luton, wherein to assemble.

It appears from the Journal of George Fox, the founder of this body of Christians, that as early as 1655, there were members of this persuasion in Luton, and among them one John Crook, a person of high standing, who was a magistrate for the county—for it is said in vol. i. p. 260, London edition, 8vo., 1700, “ 1655; I was moved of the Lord to go down into Bedfordshire (Luton is put in the margin) to John Crook’s house, where there was a great meeting, and people generally convinced of the Lord’s Truth. When

I was come thither, John Crook told me that the next day, several of those that were called the gentlemen of the county, would come to dine with him, and to discourse with me: they came: and I declared to them God's eternal truth. Several friends went to the steeple houses that day; and there was a meeting in the country, which Alexander Parker went to, and towards the middle of the day it came upon me to go to it, though it was several miles from me. Many were turned to Christ Jesus that day, and came to sit under his teaching; insomuch that the judges were in a great rage, and many of the magistrates in Bedfordshire, because there were so many turned from the hireling priests to the Lord Jesus. Christ's free teaching. But John Crook was kept by the power of the Lord; yet he was turned out from being a justice."

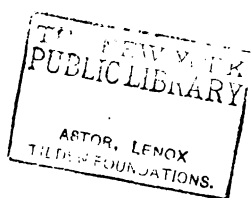
And again, in the same vol. p. 476, three years afterwards, he says:—"After some time we came to John Crook's house, where a great yearly meeting for the whole nation was appointed to be held. This meeting lasted three days, and many friends from most parts of the nation came to it; so that the inns and towns round thereabouts were filled, for many thousands of people were at it. And although there were some disturbance from some rude people that had run out from the truth; yet the Lord's power came

over all, and a glorious meeting it was. After this meeting was over, and most of the friends gone away, as I was walking in John Crook's garden, there came a party of horse with a constable, to seize on me. I heard them ask who was in the house? and somebody made them answer, I was there; they said, I was the man they looked for, and went forth into the house, where they had many words with John Crook, and some few friends there with him. But the Lord's power so confounded them, that they never came into the garden to look for me, but went their way in a rage. When I came into the house, friends were very glad to see them so confounded, and that I had escaped them. Next day I passed from thence."

In vol. ii., p. 282, in the year 1677, he says, "Next day, passing through Luton, I went to Market Street, and the day following, Leonard Fell and I had a meeting at Kensworth, which was pretty large and peaceable."

And in p. 323 of the same vol., he further says, "From Market Street I went in the morning, to Luton, in Bedfordshire, to see John Crook, with whom I spent good part of the day, and went towards evening to St. Albans."

This John Crook is supposed to have lived near to the house now occupied by Mr. Oclee, watchmaker.





Baptist Meeting - Putnam?

There are at the present time about twenty families belonging to this society. Their place of burial is exempt from the government order issued last year, closing all the burial grounds in Luton.

OLD BAPTIST MEETING.

This building was situated on the right-hand side of Park Street, running parallel with an alley, called Old Yard, and in the orchard of Richard Highron, labourer, which was sold by him, with six poles of land adjoining, for the sum of £4 16s., to Thomas Marsom of Luton, iron-monger; the deed is dated July 4th, 1698. The Trustees also purchased of Henry Harris, of Luton, yeoman, seven poles of ground adjoining the meeting house, with the passage leading to the street, for five shillings, March 14th, 1719. Also two small pieces of ground at the back of the cottage of Joane Sowthen, then of Luton, spinster, for five shillings, October 12th, 1731. Also three pieces of ground, adjoining the meeting house, containing sixteen poles, for five shillings, of Mr. Samuel Chase, senr., of Luton, December 23rd, 1789, and twenty-eight poles of ground adjoining, for five shillings, of Mr. Thomas Collett, Mrs. Susanna Collett his wife, and Mr. John Coles, junr., July 22nd, 1807.

There have been several deeds of appointment for new trustees.

This place of religious worship was built immediately after the passing of the declaration of liberty of conscience by James II., 1686, by Richard Sutton, of Tring, collar-maker, who sold it to the Trustees on the 28th day of July, 1698, for the sum of five shillings. It was a branch of the early and great congregation of Baptists at Kensworth, in Hertfordshire. The building was composed of brick and stud, fronting south east, with a double roof, and tiled, measuring about thirty-two feet by twenty-six, with a vestry attached. It appears that the church increased in numbers very fast, for it was soon found necessary to erect a gallery, the entire length of the chapel, four seats deep. The building was afterwards enlarged one third, with another vestry and treble roof, the centre one forming a cupola, with two sashes to open, and also serving to admit light; they likewise added another gallery, extending along the end from north to east, three seats in depth; the pulpit was placed against the centre of the north wall; the whole was neatly pewed, except over the baptistry, where were a few movable forms: thus it continued until 1814, when the present large, beautiful and substantial chapel was built further south west, on a higher piece of ground,

which had been added as a burying ground. The old burying ground was completely filled up. It is of an octagonal shape, twenty-one feet high from the floor to the ceiling, and fifty-two feet in diameter, with a king-post roof, having a gallery all round, four seats deep; the ground floor is neatly pewed, and several of them lined. The chapel will seat upwards of eight hundred persons; it was built by subscription, the contract price for erection being £1600, and the contractors to have the materials of the old building; but as several alterations took place it was valued, and cost about £2000. It was opened in the year 1814, at which time the old house was taken down, and the materials were drawn from there by a donkey for the building of the first cottage erected in High Town, formerly called Donkey Hall from that circumstance.

It has an organ built by Mr. Bates, of London, at the cost of £80, raised by subscription.

The burial-ground is noted for the many altar-tombs it contains, several of which are costly, and in some of them are the remains of former ministers and other families, particularly those of Gutteridge, Chase, and Marson. There is an old slab-stone, raised about six inches from the ground, close to the south corner of the old house, dated 1700.

There is a register book of the pastors and

members, containing an account of expenses and other particulars, some of which are very curious. The noted John Bunyan preached here. The Market Street meeting house was a branch of this until lately, as was also Coleman Green. By the register, Mr. Marsom appears to have been the first pastor, in the year 1707. He was fellow-prisoner with Bunyan, Mr. Wheeler, of Cranfield, and others: his goods and chattels were put up for sale by the sheriff of the county while he was in confinement, but no purchaser could be found. (These particulars may be found in a funeral sermon preached at Luton, January 26th, 1725, by Mr. Meedham, of Hitchin. Mr. Gurney, one of the short-hand writers to the House of Lords, is great-grandson to the same Mr. Marsom.) By the same register book there appears to have been (in 1707) upwards of 229 members in connexion with the Luton Society, and thirty-three places as branches of the same. In the year 1715 Mr. Chase and Mr. Bunker were elected co-pastors with Mr. Marsom—the two latter appointed more particularly to travel and preach at the branch places. Mr. Marsom died in 1724—5, and was succeeded by Mr. Pilley, who continued the pastor for thirty-one years; after his death, in 1758, it was supplied by Mr. John Coles and Mr. John Sutton until 1763, when Mr. Christopher Hall

was chosen, who continued until 1767. To him succeeded a young man named Perkins, who, being both proud and tyrannical, caused a division in the church and congregation. This led to another meeting house being built, in a place called Coupee's Place, from being the property of a person of that name; this place continued but for a short time, as they were again united, and Mr. Blundell chosen minister. (The place has since been converted into a dwelling-house, and belongs to the Wesleyan trust property.) It was for many years the residence of Mr. Ebenezer Daniels, their minister, who was pastor in 1812, and continued such until 1830. In his time it became an open church; but it appears that the communion was liberal from the commencement. He was a man of great ability, persevering and sincere, of liberal mind, and unceasing in his preaching to every house and village. The Sunday school in his time contained (including the village branches) from six to seven hundred children. Collections at their anniversary services ranged from £50 to £70. It contained an exceedingly large congregation about this time, and was noted for its superior choir of singers. The Baptist interest, in connexion with this place, was certainly at its zenith in 1829. In 1830, Mr. Daniels removed to the island of Ceylon, and Mr. Henry Burgess suc-

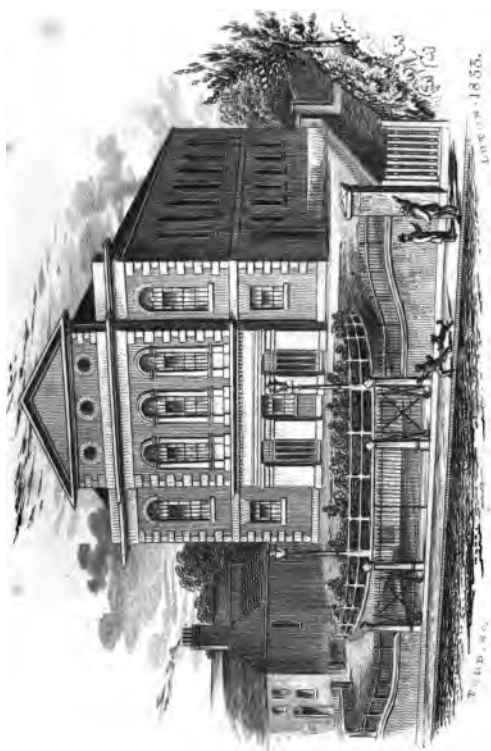
ceeded;—in his time another division took place, occasioned through some dispute, which led to the erection of the Union Chapel, situate in Castle Street. Mr. Henry Burgess having removed in 1848, he was succeeded in the following year by the present minister, the Rev. J. Jordan Davies.

*He took orders
in the Church
of England*

There is a very convenient school-room, erected in 1832, at the entrance, which has been enlarged of late, and is capable of holding upwards of five hundred children. The number of children at present in the Luton Sunday school is four hundred and forty. The following are the branch places in connexion with the meeting house,—Stopsley, Leegrave, Limbury, and Pepperstock.

WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL.

Methodism was introduced into Luton about the year 1770, by William Cole, Esq., who then resided at the vicarage house, in Luton, and afterwards at Sundon: he lies buried in Luton churchyard, where a handsome altar-tomb is erected to mark the place of his interment. He built and gave the Chapel in Church Street, which is entered by a narrow passage from the street, and two cottages adjoining, fronting the street, and also endowed it with the sum of



NEW WESLEYAN CHAPEL. LUTON.

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£10 10s. annually, arising out of certain lands for the support of that cause. The deed bears date 3rd October, 1780. The chapel was well built and double roofed, and end and side galleries were afterwards put up. It appears by the journals of the Rev. John Wesley, who was the founder of this body of christians, that he had several times preached there, and often visited William Cole, Esq., of Sundon, who, as stated before, gave the place. He says, vol. iii., p. 451, third edition, London, 1829, "Thursday, Jan. 16, 1772, I set out for Luton. The snow lay so deep on the road, that it was not without much difficulty and some danger, we at last reached the town. I was offered the use of the church; the frost was exceedingly sharp, and the glass was taken out of the windows. However, for the sake of the people I accepted the offer, though I might just as well have preached in the open air. I suppose four times as many people were present, as would have been at the room; and about one hundred in the morning. So that I did not repent of my journey through the snow."

It was but a very small congregation till the Rev. Maximilian Wilson, a noted preacher, was stationed here in the year 1808, (the first year that it became a circuit) who, being an intelligent and useful minister, introduced good order among the people; from that time they have in-

creased in numbers and respectability. In 1814, a new chapel, and house adjoining for the minister's residence, was erected in Hog Lane, which has since been called Chapel Street, in consequence of this chapel being situated there. This place of worship was enlarged in 1834, and contained a circular gallery, and although capable of seating seven hundred and fifty persons, it was found much too small, and for a considerable time afterwards it was found necessary to have separate services at the Victoria Rooms, (which formerly stood in Wellington Street,) afterwards at the Town Hall, and then at the Old Chapel in Church Street, to meet the desire of the people to attend the ministry of the Wesleyans. There is a small burial ground, nearly filled up.

On December 30, 1851, the foundation stone of a new chapel was laid by Thomas Farmer, Esq., of London, and was opened for divine worship by the Rev. Thomas Jackson, on the 26th May, 1852. It is situated in Chapel Street, adjoining the premises heretofore mentioned. This building was designed by W. Pocock, Esq., of London. It is built of white perforated bricks, with Caen stone and rustic quoins, piers and pediment, in front. Great praise is due to the builder, Mr. Walter Parker, of Thrapston, Northamptonshire, for the satisfactory manner in which

it is finished. It measures ninety feet by sixty feet, and is capable of seating eighteen hundred people. The congregation is generally large, upwards of two thousand people frequently attending on the Sabbath evening.

The interior of the building is free from architectural decorations; it has a deep circular gallery. The windows are glazed with ground glass, transmitting a soft light. The ground pews, in the centre, are neatly lined with blue cloth, cushioned, and carpeted; the pulpit is of solid mahogany, polished, large, and handsome, and cost £70; on the desk of this is a rich blue silk velvet cushion, with gold tassels. In the communion place, which is enclosed with mahogany capped bronzed rails, is a massive mahogany table, with marble top, for the communion service and plate. The organ is plain in appearance, being of a light-coloured stained wood, but is in perfect harmony with the style of the interior; it is large and of grand tone, built by Messrs. Gray and Davison, London, at the cost of £320, raised by subscription; two or three young gentlemen taking upon themselves the responsibility of collecting the money. The chapel is comfortably heated with hot water in the winter season.

It stands upon an eminence, and possesses an attractive appearance. Opposite the front en-

trance is an oval-shaped grass plot, enclosed, and intended to be planted with shrubs, around which are circular paths leading to the chapel, entered from the street by massive iron gates. There are two side entrances to the chapel; one of which on the south west side opens by a small iron gate into a pathway, leading from Chapel Street to Castle Street.

The entire cost of this place of worship, including the interior fittings and exterior fences, and the purchase of the ground, but exclusive of the organ, was upwards of £4000; the whole amount of which has been paid.

The property now held by the trustees of the Luton Wesleyan Methodist Society is extensive and valuable, comprising the chapel and dwelling house (formerly two cottages) situated in Church Street, given by William Cole, Esq., with an annuity of ten guineas, paid annually. The chapel situated in Chapel Street, built in 1814, which is now fitted up as a day-school, and for other purposes of the society. The minister's residence adjoining, a dwelling house situated in Coupee's Place, adjoining the east side of the burial ground, with a piece of garden ground attached. A cottage fronting Chapel Street, adjoining the north side of the burial ground; and the large new chapel situated on the south west side. The premises in Chapel Street are enclosed, and form one undivided property.

The Sunday school in connexion with this society, numbers six hundred and fourteen children and eighty-one teachers, in the town. There are several other schools in connexion with their village places of worship.

The present ministers are the Rev. T. P. Clarke, superintendent, the Revs. P. Fowler, B. Field, and R. Maxwell; the latter resides at Hitchin, and alternates with one of the ministers residing at Luton, every month.

PROVIDENCE CHAPEL.

This building is situated at the bottom of Louse Lane, (as it was called in the Court Rolls) now termed Park Lane; it is a small place, built very slightly of lath and plaster, by Mr. Rushmore, a respectable boot and shoe-maker, of Luton, upwards of forty years ago; he being of Antinomian principles; it was but thinly attended. Mr. Hews, of Dunstable, and several others of the same faith preached there, but having no support, it was converted into dwelling-houses, and still remains so; the yard adjoining it was used as a burial ground, where five or six persons were interred.

EBENEZER CHAPEL

Is situated in Hastings Street, the side front in

Dumfries Street, standing upon a piece of ground purchased of the trustees of the late Marquis of Bute in May, 1853, containing about twenty-one poles, for the sum of £150. It was built in December, 1853, by Mr. Walter Parker, of Thrapstone, builder, for the sum of £950. It measures sixty-six feet by forty-one, containing a gallery, and will accommodate about five hundred persons. There are two vestries adjoining. It is a neat, well ventilated, and comfortably arranged building, without any pretensions to architectural beauty. By the trust deed it is devoted to the "Particular (Calvinistic) Baptist denomination." Their Sabbath school numbers eighty-seven children. The present minister is Mr. Alfred Cook. Their former place of worship was situated in Ebenezer Street, (which took its name from the chapel being there) a small place, capable of holding about two hundred persons, built in the year 1832 by Mr. Sprague, then of Toddington, afterwards resident at Luton, who was their preacher; but owing to the rapid increase of the congregation it was found necessary to erect the present more commodious place of worship. The original has since been sold to Mr. Pledge, grocer, altered into a dwelling place, and occupied as such. Several persons were buried there, whose remains have been removed to the present building.

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Union Chapel, London.

UNION CHAPEL.

On the left side of the road leading from Castle Street to London Road, upon a piece of ground originally forming part of a meadow called Langley's close, and purchased of the late Mr. Thomas Waller by the trustees in 1836, stands the above chapel. This building was erected in 1837, at the cost of £1400, raised by subscription, and was capable of seating five hundred persons, having a small end gallery in front for the choir. In 1841 it was enlarged, and side galleries added, with a smaller one, also, over the choir, for the children, at a further outlay of £400; it would then contain upwards of seven hundred and fifty persons. In 1844 it was again considerably enlarged, at an additional outlay of upwards of £1200, making the total amount of the construction of the present building about £3000. It will now seat one thousand one hundred and fifty persons. It is a mixed communion of Baptists and Independents.

The structure is noble and elegant, ascended by a long flight of steps, to a portico supported by large pillars. There are two small vestries adjoining, and two large rooms beneath the chapel, which are used as school-rooms. The number of children in the Luton Sabbath school is six hundred and fifty-four. At Caddington

and Perry Green are places of meeting in connexion with this society, each having a Sabbath school; in the former are one hundred and fifty-two children, and in the latter fifty-six. The chapel at Caddington, which is a neat building, will accommodate nearly two hundred persons.

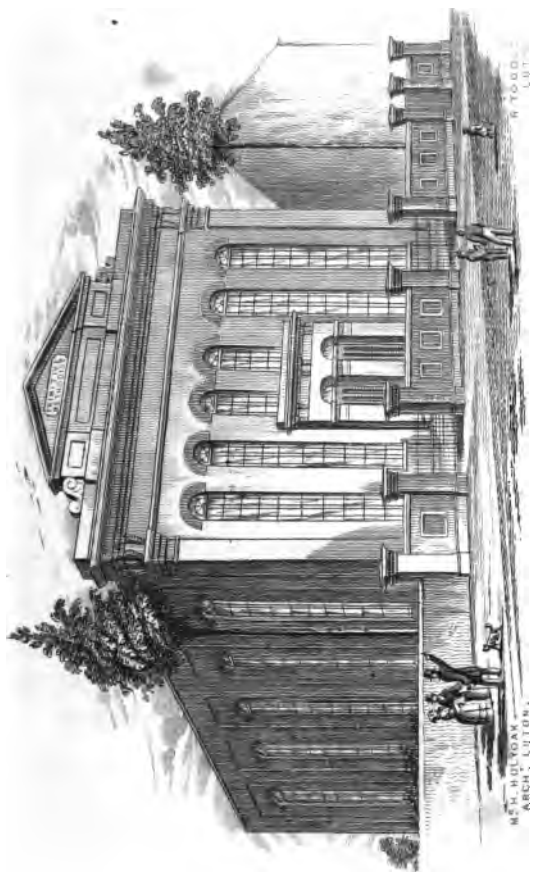
Their first stated minister was the Rev. J. S. Bright, who was succeeded in 1843 by the Rev. R. Robinson, the present minister.

Attached to the chapel is a small burial ground, at the lower end of which is a costly altar-tomb, to the memory of Samuel Spenser; also a stone monument to the memory of Mrs. G. Walker, each enclosed with an iron fence.

PRIMITIVE METHODISTS.

This connexion arose in Staffordshire, through out of door religious exercises, in the years 1807-8-9 and 10, in which latter year its first society, or church, was formed at Stanley, a village in the above county, and contained ten members.

In the year 1838, they entered the Town of Luton, and after holding their services in the Market Place, and other parts of the town, principally in the open air, for about twelve months, they succeeded in purchasing a plot of ground in High Town, upon which they erected a chapel, in 1839, capable of holding two hundred and



PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL, LUTON.
 B.E.D. - 1852.

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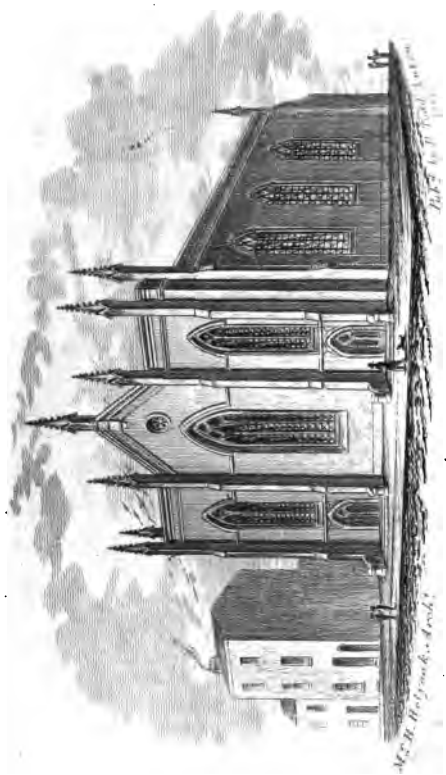
fifty persons, which cost £330 12s. 8d., including the purchase of ground, &c. This becoming too small, a gallery was afterwards erected, for the accommodation of fifty more, at a cost of £54 12s. making a total of £385 4s. 8d. This building is now let for a British School, on week days, and the Primitive Methodists still hold their Sabbath school in it, which numbers one hundred and seventy children. In 1851 they purchased a piece of ground, not far from their former place of worship, upon which, on Thursday, August 5th, 1852, the foundation stone was laid of the present beautiful chapel, by Mr. Robert How. It is situated in the upper part of High Town, and in a very suitable locality, in a comparatively new part of the town, being in the midst of a population of between fifteen hundred and two thousand inhabitants. It measures fifty feet by forty feet, outside, and from the floor to the ceiling, is twenty-three feet high, built of bricks, with piers. The front end is built of the best white perforated patent brick, with gray bricks for corner piers and cornice. There is a double door in the front, ascended by three steps. The chapel is beautifully light, which light cannot be obstructed at either end or side of the building. Two-thirds of the chapel is fitted with pews, and the other third has free moveable seats, without backs. This place of worship will seat five

hundred persons, and does credit to Mr. Holyoak, of Luton, the Architect, and Mr. Williams, the Builder, of the same place. Since its erection, a convenient house has been built in a fine situation, behind the chapel, for the preacher's residence, together with convenient out buildings, still leaving a piece of garden ground with openings leading into the main street, and a separate entrance on each side of the chapel. The whole outlay for the construction of this chapel and preacher's house, including land, deeds, &c., amounted to about £1220.

NEW BAPTIST OR CEYLON CHAPEL.

This Church appears to have originated with a few friends, members of the Old Baptist and Union Chapels, who for a considerable time had been convinced of the inadequacy of the means of Grace and places of worship, to meet the moral necessities of the growing population of the town, at that time.

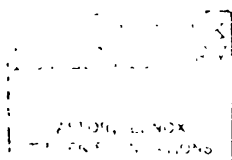
In August, 1846, they erected a temporary place of worship, capable of seating between three and four hundred people, on a piece of ground, in Stuart Street, kindly lent by Jas. Waller, Esq., and which continued till the following year, when the present building was opened for divine worship. It is situated in



New Baptist Chapel.

M. H. Hargrave & Co. Architects.

Built by the Baptist Association 1861.



Wellington Street, and stands upon a piece of ground containing about thirty-three poles. The original cost of its construction, including purchase of ground, &c., was about £2,200. It is in the Gothic style, with an ornamented front. The three front windows are adorned with stained glass. There are two vestries attached. In May, 1851, an end gallery, capable of holding two hundred and fifty persons, was erected at an outlay of £240. In 1852, a school room, which is also used as a lecture room, was built over the vestries, for the accommodation of three hundred children, at an additional outlay of £250. During the present year, a small domed gallery has been erected behind the pulpit, for the organ and choir. The organ was built by G. King, and purchased by subscription for £120. This chapel will seat about eight hundred persons. It is an open communion. Their Sunday school numbers two hundred and fifty-nine children. There are no village places connected with this religious cause. In 1847, the Rev. J. Hirons was chosen as their first stationary minister; he continued until 1850, and was succeeded by the present minister, the Rev. J. Harcourt, who commenced his pastorate in 1850.

CONGREGATIONAL OR INDEPENDENT CHURCH.

This Cause was originated in 1853, by a few

friends in connexion with the church at Union Chapel, who had long wished to see a congregational interest established in the town, there being no church of that order, or polity, in Luton; and its growing population, together with the inadequate provision in chapel accommodation, fully justifying the movement. On the 28th of August, after prayerful deliberation, eighteen persons formed themselves into a Christian church, solemnly covenanting to walk together in the faith and love of the gospel, and to aid in its dissemination around them. The large room in the Town Hall was engaged as a temporary place of worship. The first public service was held on Friday, September 9th, when the Rev. J. Baldwin Brown, of London, gave a Lecture on the "Church Principle of the Independents, its truth, and power, and special adaptation to the present age," to a large and deeply attentive audience. On the Sabbath evening, the Rev. G. B. Bubier, of Cambridge, preached, and was followed, in succession, by the Revs. W. Griffith of Hitchin, David Thomas of Stockwell, W. Barrett of Royston, and other leading ministers of the denomination.

The church and congregation continue to worship in the Town Hall, and have considerably increased since the formation of the cause. The church now numbers upwards of seventy

members, and has a Sabbath School, containing one hundred and twenty scholars.

They have purchased a piece of ground in Stuart Street, one hundred and twenty feet by seventy, where they intend erecting a chapel for their use, capable of accommodating one thousand people. The prospects of this new cause are very encouraging, promising, under the blessing of the divine head, to become an important interest in the town.

PLACES OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.	SUNDAY SCHOOLS.				
	NO. OF SITTINGS	BOYS.	GIRLS.	TOTAL.	TEACHERS.
Parish Church	2000	280	310	590	43
Friends' MeetingHouse	200	..	..	..	..
Old Baptist Chapel ..	800	172	268	440	45
W. Methodist Chapel	1800	186	428	614	81
Ebenezer Chapel	500	36	51	87	15
Union Chapel	1500	142	528	670	67
P. Methodist Chapel..	500	80	115	195	24
New Baptist Chapel ..	800	95	164	259	35
Proposed Congrega- gational Chapel }	1000	50	70	120	16
	9100	1041	1934	2975	326

The above table shows that the moral cultivation of the inhabitants of the town has not

been neglected, and this is attested also by Mr. Balfour, in his important evidence before a committee of the House of Commons. He was employed to take moral stock, so to speak, in two country places, one of which had been neglected, the other cared for. In the former, (a village in Bedfordshire,) the females were in a very demoralised state, and a large number had illegitimate children; sixteen out of twenty of the women were opium eaters, and a fearful state of ignorance and vice prevailed. In the latter, (Luton,) also in Bedfordshire, and a great place for straw bonnet making and plaiting, and therefore liable to unusual temptations, there was "a high state of morality among the females, only three illegitimate children in the poorhouse, out of a population of fourteen thousand, and the people temperate." This state of things he expressly refers to the provisions made in a religious and scholastic point of view, viz. the schools, places of worship, libraries, missionaries, savings' banks, &c. He especially remarks on the thrifty nature of the working men. See North British Review, for Feb. 1855, p. 479.

DAY SCHOOLS.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

These Schools were built in 1835, on the site of two cottages, situated in Church Street, given by the late Marquis of Bute, and cost about £600 erecting; the money being raised by subscriptions, grants from Government, and the National Society. They are supported by endowments, amounting to £36 per annum, by subscription, and by aid from the Committee of Privy Council on Education. Ten pounds per annum of the endowment is applied to the apprenticing of deserving boys. The number of boys is two hundred and three, of infants, one hundred and ninety.

A Day School has just been established at Biscot, in connexion with the church, and contains fifty children. The school room, with teacher's residence attached, has been built at the expense of John S. Crawley, Esq., of Stockwood. There is also a church Sunday school at the same place. In Luton Church Sunday School, there are five hundred and ninety children.

BRITISH SCHOOL.

This School Room, which is situated in Langley Street, was built in October, 1836. It

measures fifty-two feet by twenty-three feet, and cost, including purchase of ground, about £400. The money was raised on the Tontine principle.

The school is supported by subscription, chiefly by the dissenters of the town, and was instituted (as all British schools have been) for the education of the children of those poor persons who have a conscientious objection to the catechisms, &c., taught in the schools supported by the members of the establishment. Each pupil pays twopence weekly.

The system of instruction is an improvement on that brought out by Joseph Lancaster, at the commencement of the present century.

Since the opening, more than fifteen hundred pupils have been admitted. There are now two hundred and eight on the books.

In August, 1837, an evening school for girls was commenced, and has been continued to the present time. The girls, in addition to the rudiments of English education, are taught useful needlework, in making the articles of their own apparel. The scholars pay one penny each per week.

INFANT SCHOOL.

The increasing population of the town appearing greatly to require extended means for the

education of the poor, led the late Daniel Brown to build this school, which is situated in Langley Street, adjoining the British School. It consists of a school room, which, with class rooms, is intended for the reception of two hundred children; the present number of children is one hundred and eighty-four. There is a house adjoining, for the residence of the teacher, and a good play-ground for the children. It is supported, in addition to the weekly payments of the children's pence, by voluntary contributions and donations. It is under the management of a committee of twelve ladies, with a treasurer and secretary, chosen from the subscribers.

BRITISH SCHOOL, (HIGH TOWN.)

This school, which was organised on the 25th of April, 1853, is established on the same principle as the British school, and is under the management of a committee of twelve ladies. It is at present carried on in the old Primitive Methodist Chapel, High Town, rented for that purpose, and is supported by voluntary contributions and the children's weekly pence. Both sexes are admitted—the age of admittance is four years, and upwards. The number of children is one hundred and ten. It is conducted by Miss Sharman.

WESLEYAN TRAINING SCHOOL.

Some of the leading friends of the Wesleyan Methodists having for some time been deeply impressed with the responsibility resting upon them, in reference to the education of the young, it was thought that, without injury to any of the schools already existing, they might with advantage establish one on the Glasgow system, founded by David Stow, Esq., which has become generally adopted by the Wesleyan body. They accordingly rented, of the Wesleyan chapel trustees, the large room of the chapel situated in Chapel Street, formerly used as their place of religious worship, and at present occupied principally by the Sunday School:—the length of which is sixty-one feet, and breadth thirty-seven feet. Having secured the services of Mr. R. J. Allsworth, the school was opened on January 2nd, 1854. In a very few days the number of children increased to three hundred and fifty, when it was found necessary to commence a juvenile branch, in a lower room of the same building, over which a female, trained in the Westminster Normal Seminary, presides. The average attendance, in both departments, has been two hundred and eighty. The Government has appointed six Pupil Teachers, who render efficient help in the smaller classes. A second female

Teacher has been secured, who confines her attention to one division of the senior school. The system of Bible, Moral and Intellectual training, here carried out, is admirably adapted to promote the best interest of the juveniles.

The annual expenditure is about £210, which is met by the children's weekly payments of threepence, and voluntary contributions. There are now two hundred and sixty on the roll—eighty-five girls and one hundred and fifty-five boys. The age of admittance is from five years.

TABLE.

DAY SCHOOLS.	BOYS.	GIRLS.	TOTAL.
National	203	190	393
British (Langley Street)	208	..	208
Infant .....	..	..	184
Wesleyan Training.....	175	85	260
British (High Town)	54	56	110
	640	331	1155

ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

Luton, a little more than half a century ago, was a dirty town, with streets narrow and low, so that there were but few places in which two

carts could pass each other; there were also banks on each side, covered with grass, in almost every part of the town; the houses were generally very low, built with stud walls, and overhanging in front about two feet, many of them thatched. Mr. Gough, in his notes, taken at Luton, May 3rd, 1776, and October 29th, 1782, describes it as "A long dirty market town of one street, meanly built, and forming off like a Roman Y from the Market Place, and then again to the Church north, and by a Pond south to Lord Bute's house."

From Mr. Pennant's Journey from Chester, 1782, page 395:—

From Flitton I went southward, over a hilly and open country. Ride over Luton Downs, and reach Luton, a small dirty town seated on the Lea; remarkable for its Church and tower-steeple, prettily chequered with flint and freestone.

Since that time great alterations have transpired; many of the houses have been taken down, and others new-fronted with bricks, and raised. But to be more particular.—At the bottom of Church Street, on the site on which stand the cottages of the late William Clarke, commonly called Amen Corner, and the adjoining gardens, was a Tan Yard, the property of Mr. Morris, a tanner of the town. The National Schools stand on the site where stood two old cottages, occupied by the Sexton and Widow

Barton. From the corner of Bute Street to C. Austin's, Esq., stood an old farm house, stable, and barns, occupied by Mr. Fossey. In the garden of J. Jones, Esq., and the adjoining ground, and at the bottom of Wellington Street, stood farm houses and buildings, both of which were occupied by Mr. John Brett, until he removed to the Bury. Adelaide Terrace was the site of another old farm house and buildings, occupied by Mr. Thomas Coupees. Another farm house was situated in the middle of the town, on the ground on which stands the present beautiful dwelling house erected by the late Jas. Gutteridge, Esq., of Crawley Green, for his own private residence, now in the possession and occupation of John Waller, sen., Esq. Previous to its being a farm it was the White Horse Inn.

The Public Houses were formerly numerous in the central part of the town, as will be seen by the following particulars, in reference to the spots on which some stood. The Harrow was where Mr. Beale, draper, resides. The Bell at Miss Hill's, stationer. The Sergeant at Mr. Pigott's, butcher. The Old Sergeant opposite the George Hotel. The Windmill at Mr. T. Foster's, cooper, &c. The Old Tavern opposite the Bell Inn. The Bull between the Crown Inn and Mr. Harrison's, draper. The White Hart at Mr. Dancer's, butcher. The Anchor at Mr.

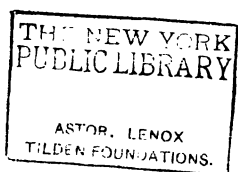
Sell's, Church Street. The White Lion where the White Hart now stands.

The present number of houses in the township that retail beer, is ninety-three.

In front of the houses from Adelaide Terrace to the Market Place, and those surrounding the Market House, and on the other side of the street from the Black Swan Inn to Spencer's Yard, and in front of Frederick Burr's, Esq., in Park Street to St. Ann's Lane, were Shambles, for the sale of butter, eggs, poultry, &c.

There was an old octagonal Shed, in the centre of the Market Place, for stalls to exhibit toys for sale. It was called the toy market, and was taken down in 1811, and a plain slated open Shed built near where it stood; this also has been removed.

The banks in front of the houses have been lowered, and the roads raised level to the paths, which are chiefly paved or pitched. The Oil Lamps were superseded by the introduction of Gas, in 1834. But the greatest and most important alterations have taken place during the last twenty-five years; from which time almost every house has been new-modeled, or rebuilt; and hundreds of new ones erected, and many new streets formed. The ponds have been filled up, one of which was nearly opposite the old yard, called the Long Pond; and another in the open





CORN MARKET HOUSE · LUTON · 1775 ·

space at the top of Church Street, called Cross Pond, enclosed with brick walls, except on the south-west side, which was left open for cattle. This pond was condemned at the Court Leet, in 1836, and was filled up within two days therefrom. At the south-east end of this pond stood the Cage and Engine House. The row of Trees in George Street, and the large old Chesnut Tree at Cross Hill, whose branches extended partly over the street, have been cut down.

By the adoption, in 1854, of the "Public Health Act of 1848," many nuisances have been removed, new sewers laid down, and new streets paved in various parts of the town, by the Local Board; and although Luton may not yet be properly called a clean and pretty town, yet it is fast approaching the time when it may receive that appellation, from the gradual improvements which are being made by the Board, by private individuals in the modern style and embellishment of their shop fronts, and by the lofty and architectural beauty and design of the newly-erected Warehouses. Several pleasant family and private Residences and Villas have been newly erected in the town and its suburbs, which, overlooking the various hills surrounding Luton, command a pleasing prospect.

The Market House is an ancient building, in the centre of the town, partly on wood and

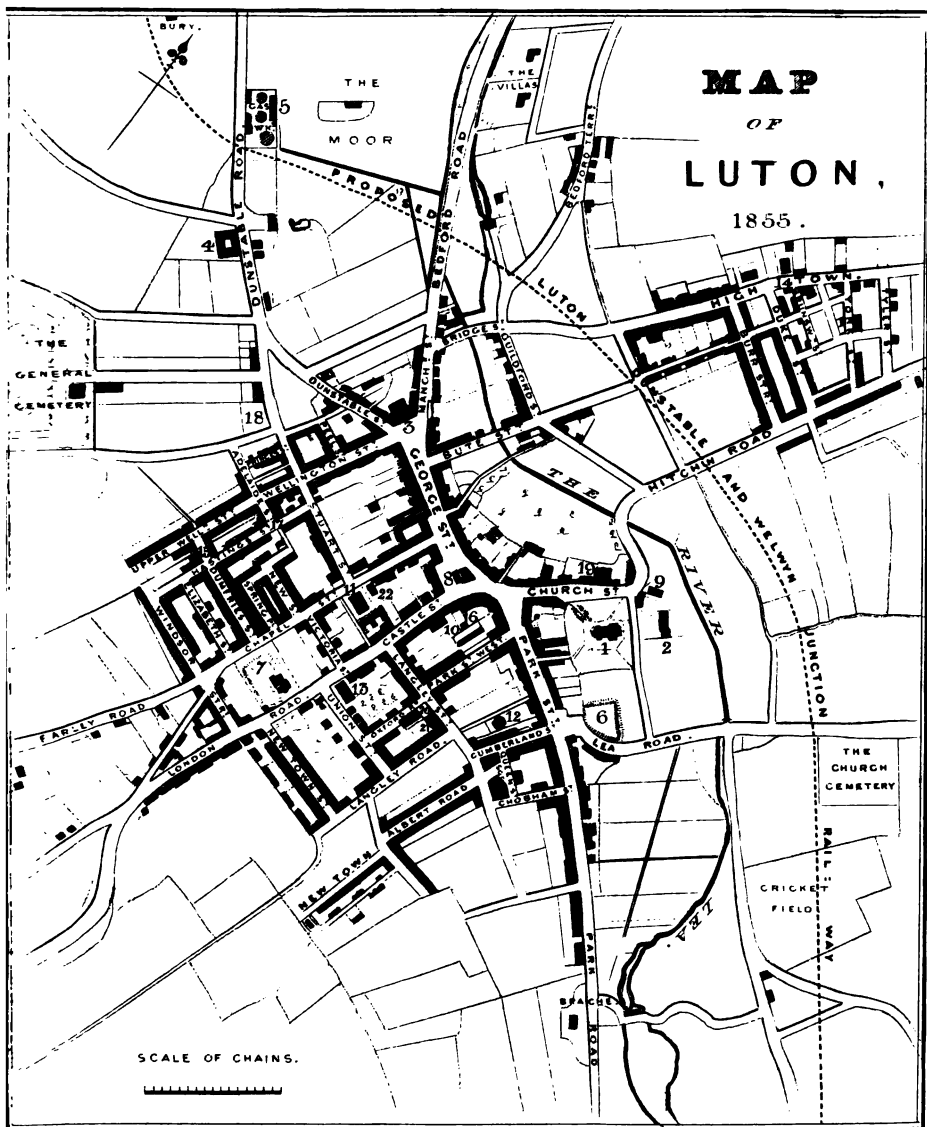
partly on brick pillars; it is tiled, and has a loft with bins for the stowing of corn, (formerly the grain was pitched here and at the surrounding Inns.) On the top of the roof, outside, is the Fire-alarm Bell; the fire-ladders and drags were usually kept under the building, suspended from the ceiling. The Stocks also stood here until lately.

At the bottom of the Market Place, on the left hand, is Hog Lane, (so called from the hog market being held there.) It is now termed Chapel Street. On the right-hand side is Barber's Lane, which takes its name from a barber's shop, formerly at the end of it. From the market, northward to Cross Hill, is George Street: from that, to the end of the town, on the right hand, is Tower Hill. It is supposed that a tower formerly stood there, but no traces of such building have been discovered, nor any circumstance tending to prove the supposition, except the appearance of the ground at the back of the houses on the left side. On the left hand is Dunstable Lane, now termed Upper George Street. From the market place, eastward, is Park Street, formerly named Sheep Street, from the circumstance of the sheep fair being kept there, and which still continues to be held in that street. At the bottom is Pound End, taking its name from the pound having been on the left-hand side, but which is

now removed to the entrance of the foot path leading from Crawley Green road to St. Ann's Hill. On the same side of the street is Blackwater Lane, now called Lea Road. (At one time it well deserved its original name.) The property adjoining, in legal documents is called Blackwater Common. Between Lea Road and Church Street, on the same side of Park Street, is St. Ann's Lane, which took the name from its being the pathway to the Chapel that anciently stood on St. Ann's Hill. From Cross Pond, now called Park Square, to the Church, is Church Street. There are a few other places, such as Louse Lane, (Park Lane) the Old Yard, and Coupee's Place. These were almost all the streets and places that formed the town, until about 1800. A reference to the map will show the immense increase that has taken place from that period to the present time. The town has extended on all sides. On the north-east side, nearly adjoining, is High Town, a densely populated district. Donkey Hall was the first name given to the buildings erected there, in 1814; the materials which formed the first houses, were the remains of the Old Baptist Meeting House, and these being drawn there by a donkey, which name was on that account bestowed upon it. Previous to the erection of these buildings, it was called Windmill Hill, on account of Everitt's wind-

mill formerly standing there. On the south side of the town, adjoining, is New Town; which, fourteen years ago, was corn fields, and the first house was built there in 1841; it is now covered with inhabited houses. The first house in New Town Street, which leads to New Town from London Road, was built in 1833. On the north west side of the town, adjoining, is Spring Place, built in 1834; Welling ton Street, the first house in which was built in 1801; these have since been surrounded with houses and new streets. In the year 1801, the number of houses in the whole of the parish was six hundred and twelve, the population three thousand and ninety-five. At the present time the township alone contains two thousand five hundred and four houses, not including thirty-six erecting, upwards of forty streets, and a population of thirteen thousand two hundred and fifty-six, calculating the same number of souls to each house as at the last census, in 1851. The population is somewhat of a fluctuating or migratory character, but becomes less so every year. Many single females from the neighbouring places, come into the town as the "busy season" commences, and return home as the trade declines.

MAP OF LUTON, 1855.

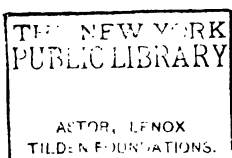


H. TODD, SCULPTOR.

REFERENCES.

LUTON.

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 PARISH CHURCH (ST. MARYS). | 8 CORN MARKET HOUSE. | 16 FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE. |
| 2 VICARAGE HOUSE. | 9 ENGINE HOUSE. | 17 CEYLON CHAPEL. |
| 3 TOWN HALL. | 10 SITE OF LANGLEY MANSION NO. 18 | 18 PROPOSED SITE OF CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL. |
| 4 UNION WORKHOUSE. | 11 METHODIST CHAPEL. | |
| 5 GAS WORKS | 12 OLD BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE. | 19 NATIONAL SCHOOL. |
| 6 SITE OF FAULK DE BRENT'S CASTLE. | 13 UNION CHAPEL. | 20 BRITISH SCHOOL. |
| 7 SITE OF CASTLE. | 14 PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL. | 21 INFANT SCHOOL. |
| | 15 EBENEZER CHAPEL. | 22 WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL. |



TABLE

Shewing the increase of the Population and the Number of Houses in the Parish of Luton,
from 1801 to 1851, according to the census taken.

YEARS.	PARISH.		TOWNSHIPS.			HAMLETS.			No. OF HOUSES.		
	TOTAL.	INCH.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.	TOTAL.	TWNSHP.	HAMLETS
1801	3095	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	612	..	..
1811	3716	621	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1821	4529	813	..	..	2986	..	..	..	853	..	..
1831	5693	1164	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1841	7740	2047	2467	3360	5827	1004	909	1913	..	..	..
1851	12783	5043	4411	6236	10647	1122	1014	2136	2427	2011	416

The Luton Registrar District includes the Parishes of Barton, Streatley-cum-Sharpenhoe, Sundon, Caddington, (part of Bedfordshire,) and Caddington, (part of Hertfordshire.)

The Luton Union includes the following Parishes:—Luton, Caddington, Beds., and Caddington, Herts., Humbershoe, Studham, Herts. and Beds., Kensworth, Whipsnade, Dunstable, Totternhoe, Houghton Regis, Sundon, Streatley, and Barton.

From an abstract of returns relating to the expense of maintaining the poor, the money raised in the parish by the poor rate and other rates, within the year ending Easter, 1786, at one shilling in the pound, amounted to £395 2s. 1d. In 1803, to £488 11s. 5½d. In 1815, to £1,004 13s. 4d. At the present time, a rate of one shilling in the pound realizes £2,032 2s. 6d.

In the year 1784, there were seventy-nine voters for the township: the following are the names. Those marked with a star were non-residents.

* William Lucas,
 * Jenkin Reading,
 * Robert Smith,
 Hon. & Rev. William Stuart
 Richard Brown,
 Daniel Brown,
 Joseph Williamson.

* James Field,
 * Thomas Catheril,
 John Pryor,
 William Henson,
 Matthew Coles,
 William Chieney,
 John Crawley, Esq.,

* William Kindar,
Charles Else,
Thomas Rodese,
Richard Hawkins,
* Christopher Perry,
* James Wilkins,
Thomas Godfrey Burr,
Edward Flitton,
* Thomas Harris,
John Brown,
John Hawkes,
John Cookson,
Isaac Squire,
* John Taylor,
John Jackson,
* Henry Eggers,
Thomas Barton,
John Freeth,
William Cox,
* Thomas Kinder,
William Dix,
John Cain,
Samuel Chase,
William Freeman,
* Richard Olney,
Samuel Chase, jun.,
Joseph Freeman,
Richard Barton,
* William Freeman,
Thomas Chapman,
* William Day,
John Young,
John Butterfield,

Thomas Bigg,
Francis Marsh,
* John Crabb,
Thomas Wood,
William Hamson,
William Green,
William Anstee,
Thomas Clayton,
* Joseph Boff,
John Day,
William Randall,
* Thomas Hall,
* John Farr,
Thomas Alsop,
John Coles,
Francis Coupees,
Thomas Pike,
* Phillip Read,
William Payne,
Charles Butcher,
Jeremiah Perrin,
* Joseph Adams,
* Thomas Evans,
William Woodward,
Thomas Teaton,
Thomas Rotherham,
Daniel Knight,
George Hawkins,
* Francis Peacock,
Thomas Crawley,
William Lawford,
Thomas Yarrow.

According to the Register of Votes, in the year 1854, there were for the township alone three hundred and fifty voters—resident two hundred and sixty, and non-resident ninety. For the whole of the parish there were four hundred and nine—resident two hundred and ninety-six, non-resident one hundred and thirteen.

There are two fairs held; one on the third Monday in April, and the other on the third Monday in October, with a statute for the hiring of servants on the first Friday after the third Monday in September. It has a market for corn on Monday, toll-free. This, formerly, was a very large and noted market for corn. Bloomfield, in his account of Luton, between 1724 and 1734, says:—

“Luton is a good market town, set among the hills, having a small river running by it, which gives it its name. Luton, Luyton, or Lee Lauton, signifies the town by the water. It has a market house, and large market for corn, with which this part much abounds, there being but little pasture. Firing is very scarce and dear, by reason of the small quantity of wood, the country being chiefly champion, and the long carriage of coal, by land, makes that also chargeable.”

STAPLE TRADE OF THE TOWN.

There is a large straw-plait market on the monday, which begins at the ringing of a hand bell by the town crier, at eight o'clock in

the morning from Lady-day to Michaelmas, and at nine o'clock from Michaelmas to Lady-day. The plait is exposed for sale on stalls, hired for the purpose, placed upon each side of the road, in George Street, extending about one hundred yards, and in the surrounding inns and gateways.

The manufacture of straw plait and bonnets is the staple trade of the town. These excel all others both in quality and cheapness, and are exported to nearly every part of the world.

According to Agnes Strickland's *Lives of the Queens of Scotland*, vol. iii. p. 186 and 187, the plaiting of straw was introduced here by King James, after his accession to the English throne, for it appears that his mother, Mary Queen of Scots, during her progress through Lorraine, had observed that the women and children were industriously and profitably occupied in plaiting and making straw hats. Perceiving also, that the condition of the peasantry was much better in those districts where this domestic manufacture was practised, than where it was not, she conceived a desire to introduce the same light and pleasant handicraft among her own subjects. She accordingly engaged a company of the Lorraine straw plaiters, to return with her to Scotland, to instruct her countrywomen in their simple art, about the year 1562. The calamities

in which Mary Stuart was involved, deprived her little colony and pupils of the encouragement they would otherwise have received from her royal patronage; still they struggled on through much adversity, and continued to exist, till her son James, who took a kindly interest in his unfortunate mother's straw plaiters, transplanted them and their useful craft to Luton, in Bedfordshire. Its introduction, therefore, must have been between the years 1603 and 1625, the reign of King James I. The fact is further established, as appears by Oldmixon's History of England, p. 755, for in 1724 the manufacture of straw plait had then thriven for above one hundred years, which brings the date back to that reign, and had extended to Hempstead and Dunstable. In the year 1724, £200 had been turned on a market day, in straw hats only, in those places, and more than ten thousand persons employed. He says, "About the beginning of September, 1724, a person of the name of Heaton was soliciting a patent to make hats of bents or straw, which would have been extremely prejudicial to thousands of poor people about Hempstead in Herts., and Luton and Dunstable, in Beds. At the said towns £200 have been turned on a market day, in straw hats only, which manufacture had then thrived in those parts above one hundred years, and children as well as

grown people, maintained themselves by plaiting wheat straw, and working for hats and other uses. Heaton's project so alarmed the masters of the manufacturers, that Mr. Thomas Burch, of Hempstead, and Mr. John Miller, of Dunstable, introduced by his Grace the Duke of Bridgewater, presented a petition to the king, setting forth the danger they were in of losing their trade and livelihood, if Heaton's patent took effect. His Majesty received their petition very graciously, and gave positive orders to the Lord Viscount Townsend, that a speedy stop should be put to the said patent, which gladdened the hearts of the thousands of manufacturers in straw, who thought their bread and their being in so much peril."

The following is an extract from the "Beauties of England and Wales," vol. i. p. 18:

Many of the poor derive sustenance from the manufacture of straw hats, baskets, and other articles of the same fashionable substance, in the straw work, which is the staple manufacture of this place. Such is the effect of fashion, that what was deemed by our forefathers only fit to be trampled on in the cowbarken, is now very commonly converted into ornaments for the ladies' heads. This circumstance gave rise to the following witty and satirical lines, by P. Andrews, Esq., entitled :

SOME LADIES' HEADS APPEAR LIKE STUBBLE FIELDS.

Who now of threatened famine dare complain,

When every female's forehead teems with grain?

See how the wheatsheafs nod amid the plumes,
And barns are now transferred to drawing rooms:
And husbands, who indulge in active lives,
To fill their graineries, may thrash their wives.
Nor wives alone prolific—notice draw!
Old maids and young ones, all are in the straw.”

It does not appear, by the extracts from Agnes Strickland and Oldmixon, that the straw plait bonnet was then made as an article of wear. Only mention is made of the manufacture of hats, and plaiting straw for other uses. In the above extract from the Beauties of England and Wales, which is of much later date, there is allusion made to articles of fashionable substance, and conversion of straw into ornaments for the ladies' heads, no doubt alluding to the bonnet, and which, most likely, was about that time first worn, and from its novelty gave rise to the fore-mentioned satirical lines.

The first straw bonnet is supposed to have been made at Dunstable, which is probable from the circumstance of the Dunstable bonnet being of much notoriety.

At the time the French prisoners were at Yaxley Barracks, near Stilton, about the year 1806 until 1815, the close of the war, many of them occupied themselves by plating straw in lengths of sixty yards, and making various fancy articles of the same material, such as bodkin cases, reticules, work boxes, table mats, wreaths,

&c. By these industrious means they obtained considerable sums of money, and were enabled to add many comforts to their condition. They found purchasers for most of their plait from Luton, who attended the barracks, which proved very lucrative to the buyers. The trade is indebted to these prisoners for the invention of the simple machine for splitting the straw, from which such great and beautiful varieties of plait are made. Before that period, plait was made with the straw whole, and was called Dunstable. There are two descriptions of machines, called splitters; one is in the shape of a small wheel, inserted in a mahogany frame, and furnished in the centre with small sharp divisions like spokes; from the axle of the wheel protrudes a small spike. The other, which is generally used, is simply a small iron or brass wire, about three inches in length, with one end turned, forming an elbow of about half an inch in length, and brought to a point. At the lower part of the elbow are fangs, or spokes. The pipe straw is placed on the central spike, and drawn down through the cutters or spokes, which divide it into as many divisions as may be required; the number generally varies from four to nine.

The best description of plaiting straw is grown chiefly in the county of Bedford and the

adjoining county, Hertford. Essex produces a considerable quantity, but of a much inferior quality. Large quantities are sent from this neighbourhood to be plaited in that county, which has a peculiar method, or what is technically termed "in sets." This is done by all the straws being worked up at one time, whatever number they may be working with at once.

The plait in this neighbourhood is chiefly made in the villages, by the women and children, and even by many of the men also. Their method of plaiting it is to insert only a single straw at a time, at short intervals, leaving a continuous fringe on the inside of the straw, which is removed with scissors. The ordinary sort is made with seven straws, and in manner as described in the village poetical style:

Under one and over two;
Pull it tight and that will do.

It is then fumigated with sulphur, in a box, and afterwards linked into loops of a yard in length, and sold in bunches at per score yards, to the plait dealers at the markets held in the surrounding towns for that purpose, or otherwise disposed of to dealers, who go round to the different places to collect the article; or it is sold to shopkeepers in the villages, who, being dealers, dispose of the same to the manufacturers at Luton and elsewhere.

The straw-hat trade, (this is its original name, and is still retained by many of the leading firms, comprising under that designation the trade in all its branches) which, in Luton, flourishes, and is progressively increasing, giving employment to many thousand females, is indebted in some measure for its advancement, to the assiduous and persevering attention of the late Edmund Waller, and the enterprising talents of his brother, the late Thomas Waller, in confining the manufacture as much as possible, to this locality. The importation of Leghorn hats was of great extent here; they were of very old standing, and were imported into England by London firms. They appear to have gone out of fashion between the years 1800 and 1820, after which time they again began to take great hold on the tastes of the people of this country. Leghorns are composed of the same material as Tuscans, worked, however, in a different manner, the seat of the manufacture being chiefly at Florence. Mr. Thomas Vyse of London, imported largely at this period. About the same time, some of the manufacturers of straw hats got up a petition, and presented it to the House of Commons, against the importation of Leghorn hats and bonnets. The late Thomas Waller, about the years 1822—23, to prevent, if possible, the sale of the foreign article, to the great injury of the poor straw

town, white chip plait, made from the wood of the willow tree, rent into thin blocks or rafters, smoothed on one side by a plane, similar to that used by a joiner; then gauged by a small machine, set with steel points or blades at an equal distance, according to the width required; the plane then passing along the smooth surface, shaved off the splints, which were afterwards worked into plait, and sewn into hats.

About the year 1820, a much finer chip splint, made by a process similar to the former, was introduced, which, being woven in a loom into square sheets of about thirty inches, was cut into narrow slips, folded, sewn up double into hats and bonnets, and afterwards pressed by a powerful machine, similar to the printing press. A ready sale for these was found in Germany.

The white chips form but a very small portion of the trade at the present time. These are imported chiefly from France, and are made from the Lombardy poplar, but being of a delicate fabric and beautifully white, are not useful as an article of general wear; they are worn principally on bridal occasions. Our native manufactured chip is made from the English willow and poplar tree, which are chiefly used in fancy plaitings.

Until within the last thirty years, the straw plait was confined to five sorts, viz.: whole straw or Dunstable, improved, patent, split, and Devon.

Several machines were invented, for embossing, waiving, and fluting the plait, about the same time. Since then an almost endless variety of patterns has been invented, such as Rutland, Coburgh, satin, diamond, twist-edge, loop-edge, honey-comb, bird's-eye, &c.; also dyed plaits of fancy colours. Likewise various sorts of rice, which is the pithy or inner side of the split straw (erroneously supposed by many to be produced from the straw of the rice plant,) and which works up into a pearly white, imitating the foreign chip.

Great numbers of bonnets are now made from fancy trimmings composed of various materials, such as straw, chips, horse-hair, cordonnet, Manilla, &c., a large proportion of which are manufactured in the neighbouring town of St. Alban's, but the more expensive and superior are imported from Switzerland. Some of these are peculiarly beautiful and rich. The variety of bonnets manufactured in this town, is too numerous to be particularised. The style of bonnets is much superior to that of former times, and the general production of the trade to that of former years, and is still making rapid and important improvements, worthy, as an article of wear, the adornment of the ladies' heads. The shapes are generally taken from the French fashions.

Several of the largest London houses have

extensive branch factories established here, each employing from two to three hundred females in their work rooms. These establishments have greatly contributed to the permanent stability of the trade in this place.

There are upwards of thirty principal manufacturers, besides numerous smaller ones that manufacture for themselves, and a great number of shops for retailing plait to persons who "make up for themselves," and offer for sale to the principal manufacturers, on the mornings of Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday, these being the leading days for, as it is called, "buying behind the counter."

An enormous amount of money is annually turned over in Luton, in this particularly interesting and curious branch of trade, probably upwards of a million and a half sterling; and taking the average price of the bonnet at one shilling and fourpence, would give an aggregate of twenty-two and a half millions; so that from the capital employed, the cheap, superior, and extensive manufacture, Luton may be fairly called the "emporium" for this useful and elegant article of dress. Some of the warehouses are large and handsome, the most prominent buildings of the town. The private residences and villas of the manufacturers and those retired from the trade rank among the noblest.

A Society, called the "Straw Hat Manufacturers' Association," for the suppression of short measure in plait, has lately been established by the manufacturers, and is supported by subscription among the founders and plait dealers. Great advantage has already resulted from this association; previously the plait had been notoriously short in measure.

LUTON GENERAL CEMETERY.

The chief places of public interment in Luton having been long in a very crowded state, and the parish churchyard in particular having been reported by high medical authority as dangerous to the public health, an order was issued by the Secretary of State, in the month of November, 1853, for closing all the graveyards except that of the Society of Friends, on or before 1st of June, 1854. The issuing of this order naturally turned the attention of the inhabitants to the consideration of the best means of providing a place of sepulture for the dead. At a public meeting of the ratepayers, a proposal was made to place the parish under the operation of the Burial Act of Parliament, but apprehensions being entertained that the adoption of that measure would be likely to entail a very heavy

pecuniary burden, and that certain of its provisions would press somewhat unequally on the nonconformist portion of the community, as compared with the members of the established church, the proposal was negatived by a large majority. A committee was subsequently appointed to consider of other methods, and the formation of a Joint Stock General Cemetery Company, was the result. In this company it was hoped that the inhabitants of all the religious persuasions might be united; and in the early stages of its formation a desire for such union appeared to prevail, but when arrangements were brought under consideration for consecrating a portion of the cemetery ground according to the rites of the established church, some difficulty arose, and the event was that the leading members of that church came to the resolution to provide a distinct place of interment for their own use, which should have the advantage of being independent of the restrictions and regulations of a general cemetery company.

The General Cemetery Company was established in the spring of the year 1854, in shares of £2 each, of which a sufficient number has been subscribed to produce £2,100. The total cost of the undertaking (now nearly completed) is estimated at £2,600, leaving a balance of £500 to be raised by way of loan, or further

subscription. The cemetery is most delightfully situated on the hilly ground rising westward of the town, within little more than half a mile from the market place, and commands an extensive prospect of the country towards the north, and an excellent view of the town itself, and its back ground of hills on the east. The subsoil is perfectly dry, consisting of chalk in some parts, and gravel in others. The area covers eight acres of land, purchased of the trustees of the late Marquis of Bute, at the rate of £150 per acre; and the approach is by a new road, of which the cemetery gates form the terminus. The ground was laid out under the direction of Mr. John Cumberland, the company's surveyor; and the shrubs and trees were selected and planted under the superintendence of Mr. James Atkins, of Painswick, who kindly and gratuitously afforded the company the advantage of his eminent skill and knowledge in that department.

The Lodge, a neat and picturesque building in the Gothic style, with a small Chapel adjoining, was erected from the design of a gentleman in the employ of Mr. Cumberland, at a cost of about £400, and the iron gates were cast by Messrs. Brown and Green, of Luton. There is a Green House, measuring sixty feet long and twelve feet wide, for raising flowers for the grounds. The cemetery is open to the use of

persons of every religious persuasion, subject only to the regulations necessary to the preservation of decency and order in the interment of the dead. The fees are on a graduated scale, according to the privileges desired, in choice of ground, construction of grave, and erection of monument. The first interment took place on the 17th of May, 1854, and the first monumental stone, a handsome obelisk, was erected in the month of November of the same year, to the memory of Mrs. Pledge, on which is inscribed:

In Memory of
Mary,
the wife of
William Thompson Pledge,
who died May 31st, 1854,
aged 41 years.

The pleasant walks and extensive prospects, which the cemetery affords to the inhabitants of Luton, promise to render it, in the summer season, a favourite resort for promenade; the shareholders having free admission, and the general public by yearly ticket, at a trifling charge.

THE CHURCH BURIAL GROUND, OR CEMETERY,

Is on the right-hand side of the road leading

from Lea Road to Crawley Green, about half a mile from the centre of the town, and containing two and a half acres, purchased of Frederick Burr, Esq., by subscription; John S. Leigh, Esq., and John S. Crawley, Esq., each subscribing £100. The grounds are not at present laid out, having been purchased for the purpose of a cemetery but a short time since. An intended outlay is contemplated of about £500, inclusive of the purchase of ground, for the erection of a Lodge for the residence of the sexton, iron palisade, planting of shrubs, paths, &c. The first interment took place on the 21st of July, 1854.

THE TOWN HALL

Is situated at the bottom of George Street, facing the Market Square. It was designed and built by John Williams and Son, in the year 1847, by shares of £10 each, at an expenditure of about £2,200, exclusive of the purchase of ground. It is a good substantial building, of two stories high, with cellars beneath; the upper part consisting of one large room, used occasionally for concerts, lectures, tea meetings, public assemblies, &c. Its lower part consists of a small room for the savings' bank; a large room for the sitting of the Magistrates, and for holding the county court; two

rooms in front—one for the mechanics' institute, and the other a reading room—each containing a library, and supplied with daily papers and other periodicals. The former admits members by a quarterly payment of 2s. 6d., the latter by an annual subscription of 21s.

THE GAS WORKS.

Are on the right-hand side of the road leading from the town to Dunstable, about half a mile distant, constructed in the year 1834, the capital being raised by shares of £10 each. A new gas holder has been constructed during the last year, measuring sixty feet in diameter, and eighteen feet deep; additional retorts have been erected, making the number twenty-five, which are daily worked during the winter, and the other works have been greatly extended. The value of the works, with the street mains and pipes, &c., is estimated at £10,000. The present charge is 6s. 8d. per thousand cubic feet—the price varies according to the value of coal. The whole of the works are under the superintendence and management of Mr. Wm. Phillips.

FIRE BRIGADES.

The engine house stands at the lower end of

Church Street, built in the year 1846, by subscription. There are five engines, two built by Mr. Merryweather, one by Mr. Tilly, and two others, which were formerly under the churchwardens, or parish officers. There are two Brigades, one an amateur, the other a paid Brigade, numbering together about twenty-five men, both of which are under the management of Mr. Wm. Phillips.

BUILDING SOCIETIES.

There are five Building Societies at Luton, three of which are terminable, the other two permanent, comprising an aggregate of two hundred and seventy-three members and $628\frac{1}{4}$ shares (exclusive of the shares redeemed and withdrawn). The first society was established in September, 1844, and called the "Luton Benefit Building Society." Shares £120 each. Monthly payment, 10s. Advance of money on each share repayable by a monthly payment of 14s. The number of shares, according to the last report, was $156\frac{3}{4}$; members, forty-eight. The number of shares redeemed and withdrawn by bonus, in this society, has been $271\frac{1}{4}$. The meeting for payment is on the first Tuesday in each month. Secretary, Mr. Hyde.

The "Luton Equitable Benefit Building So-

ciety" was established in January, 1847, shares £120 each. Monthly payment, 10s. Monthly repayments for advance of each share, 14s. Number of shares, $111\frac{1}{4}$; members, forty-three. The meeting for payment is on the third Thursday in each month. Secretary, Mr. Henry Hollands.

The "Luton Improved Benefit Building Society" was established in July, 1851. Shares £120 each. Monthly payment, 10s. Monthly repayment for advance on each share, 14s. Number of shares, 136; members, seventy. The meeting for payment is on the second Tuesday in each month. Secretary, Mr. James W. Pressey.

The "Luton Permanent Benefit Building Society" was established in January, 1853. Shares £50 each. Monthly payment, 5s. Advance on money repayable by fixed monthly instalments, according to the number of years for which the money is advanced. Number of shares, $151\frac{1}{2}$; members, seventy-one. The meeting for payment is on the first Wednesday in each month. Secretary, Mr. Henry Hollands.

The "South Beds. and North Herts. Permanent Benefit Building Society" was established in February, 1854. Shares £100 each. Monthly payment, 10s. Advance of money repayable by fixed monthly or quarterly instalments during 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, or 15 years. The monthly payment for an advance of £100, for a term of ten years

only, is 13s. Number of shares, $72\frac{3}{4}$; members, 41. The subscription meeting is on the first Friday in each month. Secretary, Mr. T. E. Austin.

SAVINGS' BANK.

The Luton Savings' Bank, established in November, 1839, contained, according to the annual report in November, 1854, five hundred and thirty-two depositors, viz:—five hundred and ten private individuals, seven charitable institutions, and fifteen friendly societies. The total amount deposited, is £7,666 2s. 4d., viz:—from private individuals, £6,553 2s. 9d.; from charitable institutions, £177 1s. 5d.; and from friendly societies, £935 18s. 2d. Since the last report in November, 1854, to the 20th of May, 1855, there has been an increase of fifty-three depositors. The total number of depositors from the commencement to the present time, is one thousand and nineteen. The bank is held at a room in the Town Hall, rented for that purpose, and is open every Monday morning from ten to eleven o'clock. Actuary, Mr. T. E. Austin.

THE POST OFFICE

Is at the top of Church Street. There are two

arrivals and one despatch of letters, &c., daily; the first arrival is by mail cart from Bletchley station, early in the morning, which is delivered generally between the hours of seven and eight o'clock. The second arrival is from the Dunstable station, by mail coach, at noon, and delivered immediately afterwards. The despatch is at ten minutes past seven o'clock in the evening, to Bletchley station. There are sub-offices belonging to the Luton office, viz.: Stopsley, Lilley, and Offley; to which places letters are conveyed from Luton at half-past seven o'clock in the morning, by a messenger, and from thence to Hitchin; and returns from Hitchin at Three o'clock in the afternoon, arriving at Luton at six o'clock in the evening. Postmaster, Mr. F. Field.

THE UNION POOR HOUSE

Stands upon a piece of ground, purchased of the late Marquis of Bute, on the left side of the road leading to Dunstable, erected by Mr. Williams, builder, in the year 1836, immediately after the passing of the Poor Law Act, at an outlay of £4,500. It is a plain brick building, measuring two hundred feet square, divided into four wards, and was erected to accommodate three hundred inmates. The board of guardians meet on a Friday morning, at eleven o'clock.

REMARKABLE EVENTS.

- 1245 In this year there was a great assembly of barons, knights, and gentlemen, at Luton, pretending to keep a martial joust and triumphant tourney, but they were disappointed of their purpose, by the command of the king; their real intention was to oppose the oppression of the pope, which at that time was very grievous.
- 1247 Adam de Luton, Abbot of Woburn, died.
- 1253 Wheat was sold for 5s. a quarter.
- 1257 Such a scarcity of corn in this neighbourhood, that many died from want. Wheat was sold at 20s. a quarter. It was a very wet harvest, so that the corn was hardly got in by Martinmas.
- 1273 A long hard frost in March.
- 1275 An earthquake felt here.
- 1279 John, Archbishop of Canterbury, visited Luton.
- 1281 A very long hard frost and deep snow.
- 1286 Luton Market was changed from Sunday to Monday.
In ancient times it was not unusual to hold markets, and fairs on Sundays and other great festivals.
- 1287 Such a plenty, that a quarter of wheat was sold for 20d., and oats and barley for 1s. a quarter.
- 1288 The executor of Nicholas, Dean of Lincoln, finished Luton Church out of his effects.
- 1289 The burgesses of Berkhamstead sued our bailiffs for taking tolls of them in our market, but it came to nothing.
- 1294 Wheat sold for 16s. 8d. a quarter. A late hay time and harvest. Luton and the neighbourhood suffered greatly from the long stay of Prince Edward, at

Leighton

Langley, in Herts. Two hundred messes were not enough for his kitchen, and he paid for nothing, but his servants took all the provisions and all the cheese and eggs that were brought to market, and even out of the townsmen's houses, and scarcely left any one a tally; they took also the bread and beer from the bakers and brewers, and those that had none they forced to make some.

1313 The following prices were fixed by London Market. A fat ox 24s., a fat sheep 20d., a fat goose 2½d., a fat capon 2d., a fat hen for 1d., twenty-four eggs for 1d.

1314 In this year there was a great plague and famine. Wheat was 10s. a bushel. In London, the flesh of horses and dogs was eaten by many.

1316 An early harvest, and a bushel of wheat for 10d.

1317 A great murrain among the cattle in this town and neighbourhood.

1336 A great fire at Luton, which burnt down upwards of two hundred houses, and almost ruined the town, for it is stated in the inquisition of the ninth, 1340, that "Luytone was rated at 82 marks with the vicarage. About two hundred messuages in the parish were uninhabited, and six carneates of land uncultivated, on account of the impoverishment of the parish, occasioned by the late fire: there were no citizens nor burgesses, but certain sellers and buyers of corn and bras (that is small beer,) and dealers in cattle; they had cattle to the value of only £45."

1348 A great plague here and throughout England.

1430 Such a scarcity, that wheat was 23s. a quarter at Luton and the neighbourhood.

1438 Wheat sold for 13s. a bushel.

1463 Wheat 6s. 8d. a quarter. Exportation was allowed when under that price, and importation when above.

1611 James I. visited Luton and knighted Robert Napier.

1617 to 1621 Wheat fell from 43s. 3d. to 27s. a quarter, consequently farmers could not pay their rents.

1643 During the Civil Wars between Charles I. and Oliver Cromwell, the following particulars occurred. The royal forces, about six hundred in number, marched to Luton, and from thence took their route towards Bedford town, not daring to stay long in a place, because of the close pursuit of the parliamentary forces. Six troopers, who were loitering behind, and regaling themselves at the Prince's Head, (now the Duke's Head), disarmed, and with their swords stuck in a fitch of bacon that lay upon a rack at the ceiling, were taken prisoners. Upon their advance towards Bedford, Sir Michael Livesay's forlorn of horse fell upon the Duke's rear guard, within two miles of Luton, and after the exchange of several pistols and a hot dispute, the enemy was forced to retreat with the loss of fifteen men, six killed and nine wounded. The king's troops got possession of Luton, by pretending to be some of Cromwell's forces, under Waller. It is very singular that the parliamentary forces, under Sir Lewis Dyves, about the same time, got possession of Bedford, under a pretence of their being the royal army. Tradition says that one of Cromwell's officers, a Major Buckinger, was shot, for suffering himself to be deceived by the king's troops, and was buried in the chancel.

1663 Wheat sold at 44s. a quarter.

1755 "In 1755 a pond in the town of Luton, in Bedfordshire, in which there had been but little water for some weeks, suddenly filled, and a copious sediment was thrown up from the bottom, at the precise time of the earthquake at Lisbon. The water continued to overflow for some time, and then all remained just as usual.—Last September a pond in Luton began to

overflow suddenly, which created alarm in the minds of the inhabitants, who apprehended that this circumstance was the indication of some earthquake on the continent. This was afterwards known to have been the case."—*From the Christian Observer, May, 1815.*

- 1781 June 4th, Dr. Johnson, with Mr. Boswell, and Mr. Charles Dilly, visited Luton and the Hoo. Mr. Boswell, in his life of Dr. Johnson, page 469, says, "It happened without any previous concert that we visited the seat of Lord Bute upon the king's birthday; we dined and drank his majesty's health at an Inn in the village of Luton."
- 1783 The regiment of the Royal Irish were stationed at Luton, and remained there a considerable time, Many of them were severely punished, and publicly flogged in the market place, for misbehaviour.
- 1784 About this year the present road to Dunstable was opened; the former road passed by the Dallow farm and close under the hills by Chaul End. Anciently the road leading from Luton to Dunstable passed through Caddington.
- 1789 In this year happened the hardest frost and deepest snow ever known. It continued fifteen weeks; the roads and hedges were buried, and the waggons and carts went over the fields—any where for the nearest way; and so hard was the snow frozen that their track could not be seen.
- 1794 About Christmas, died Joseph Freeman, schoolmaster, who was town crier, tax and poor rate collector, land measurer, &c.—noted for having had three wives and thirty-three children—eleven by the first, ten by the second, and twelve by the third.
- 1795 On Monday morning, February 12th, was a great flood at Luton, occasioned by the sudden thaw of a deep

snow and heavy shower of rain; it covered the meadows near the river to the depth of six feet or more, and came into some of the houses; there were no bridges for waggons at that time, and the teams could not get into the town; but as it happened about day-break, little damage was done. The only incident that occurred was to Mr. John Brown, who, as he said, would go out and tell his kinsman, Mr. J. Brown, who then lived at the Breach mill, how to get the water off. Several persons warned him of the danger of such an attempt, but in vain; and in making the effort his horse fell into a hole that was caused by the force of the water, and he was, unfortunately, drowned. His body was found as soon as the water abated, lodged in the wheel of a waggon, a little distance from the place. This same year there was a very high wind, which blew down the mill on the old Bedford road.

- 1795 A riot took place, in the summer, corn being very scarce and dear, and the little that came into the market being purchased by Mr. Greaves, near St. Alban's, it so provoked the poor people of Luton that they were determined to prevent it; accordingly, on the market day, the mob (which consisted chiefly of the women of the town and neighbouring villages, who came to sell their plait), rose, and got into the waggon and threw out the sacks of wheat, and would not suffer any to be taken away: towards the evening the men also began to riot, so that it was found necessary to order out the soldiers, who put an end to the affair without further mischief; but the removal of wheat for some time afterwards was effected in the night.

- 1797 In consequence of the flood in 1797, the road from the Duke's Head to the Bedford road, over the rivers,

(then called horsepool), was raised, and two bridges were built with bricks to prevent the inconvenience of future floods.

- 1799 A brick bridge was built on the road from Church Street to Round Green, and the watercourse turned through it (the river until that time ran to the end of Church Street, and thence by the back of the vicarage house—and the road for teams crossed it with a wooden bridge, and there was a raised path by the side for foot passengers.)
- 1800 A riot began on the statute fair evening, by a recruiting party, and a drunken fellow, named Nichols, who had, as they affirmed, enlisted. The people took Nichols' part, and pelted the soldiers, who ran to the George inn for shelter: the mob followed them, broke their swords and beat them; they also broke the windows of the inn, and did other damage to the house. The yeoman cavalry were then ordered out, and special constables were then sworn in, and the riot act was read. The yeomanry were pelted and struck with sticks, but some of the ringleaders were soon taken to prison, and the mob then dispersed.
- 1805 A deep snow began December 26th, and lasted twelve weeks.
- 1807 "August 19th, Luton. A splendid entertainment was given by the Marquis of Bute to the freeholders of Bedfordshire, resident. The market house was fitted up after the manner of an ancient bower, in which covers for one hundred and sixty freeholders were provided, which soon overflowed, but the powerful detachments of Luton were amply provided for elsewhere. The number of guests under the market house and at the inns, amounted to two hundred and forty, and the consumption of wine, on an average, was more than three bottles a man. The style, regu-

larity and promptness with which the entertainment was provided, corresponded with the enthusiasm and zeal demonstrated by every description of the freeholders in the interest of Messrs. Pym and Fitzpatrick, who on the spur of the occasion so cheerfully gave their assistance. The Marquis and his two grandsons presided in the bower. Many loyal and constitutional toasts were drank, and everything passed of remarkably well till about seven o'clock in evening, when a serious accident had nearly befallen the noble Marquis, who, with his grandson (the Earl of Dumfries) and Mr. Crawley, of Stockwood, had got into the barouche to return to Luton Hoo; when, by the rearing and kicking of four spirited horses, they found that the zeal of the populace, inflamed with liquour, had led them incautiously to loosen several of the traces, that they might disengage the carriage from the encumbrance of the animals. The Marquis, the Earl, and Mr. Crawley, all leaped out of the barouche, and fortunately escaped uninjured. The younger grandson of the Marquis sat terrified on the dickey-box. The horses were taken out, and the inhabitants of Luton with great alacrity supplied their places, who were afterwards themselves supplied with abundance of ale at the Marquis's hospitable mansion." — *Gentleman's Magazine*, August, 1807.

1809 A brick bridge built over the river, on the road leading from Lee Road to Crawley Green.

1814 The inhabitants met to celebrate the return of peace. Two bullocks and eleven fat sheep, with bread and beer, were given to the poor; also a dinner to the young people about the age of twelve years. A grand dinner was likewise provided in the market house for the tradespeople and principal inhabitants.

1820 The most noble the Marquis of Tavistock presented a petition from the inhabitants of Luton to her most excellent Majesty, Caroline, Queen Consort of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, congratulating the Queen upon her escape from her malignant persecutors. Her Majesty was pleased to return the following most gracious answer.

“ I return my most cordial thanks to the inhabitants of the town of Luton and its vicinity, for this loyal and affectionate address.

“ My life is one among the many proofs which might be produced, that the highest stations are most exposed to misery and most infected by inquietude. The wrongs which I have suffered, and the griefs by which I have been oppressed, while they will furnish matter for future history, will probably, hereafter, be cited by moralists and divines, as an argument for acquiescence in inferior circumstances, or as lessons of patience and resignation to those in the subordinate stations of society. It is some consolation to reflect, that what has been evil to me is likely, either morally or politically, to conduce to the good of others. If my sorrows shall, in their result, make the nation rejoice, or, if my persecution shall, in the mysterious combinations of the moral government, make the people more free, I shall not think that I have been oppressed for no purpose, or that I have mourned in vain.”

1822 Harvest began July 7th, by Mr. Yardly, at the Luton Park Farm.

1828 July 8th. A great flood, between 5 and 6 o'clock, p.m. An alarming thunder storm, assuming the appearance of a water-spout, having burst over the town, in a very short time the water came rushing down Chapel Street and the Market Hill; the drains not

being sufficiently large to carry off so great a body. The centre part of the town soon became flooded—fourteen cellars were completely filled, and many others were partly so; the water rose to a depth of several feet in the shops and ground floors, carrying away every moveable article, and passing through the houses, swept down the garden walls. Many of the houses were so severely damaged that they had to be propped up from the outside until they were taken down and rebuilt. Several gentlemen of the town had a very narrow escape of their lives.

1829 A hard frost and deep snow which continued thirteen weeks.

1830 Remarkable for being the first steeple chase in the neighbourhood, March 8th.

1832 The new road leading to Barton opened.

1833 Sunday, April 7th. Joseph Adams, an aged and infirm man, was murdered and robbed by Thomas Crawley, as he was turning the corner of White Hill, London Road, in sight of the cottages at the bottom of the hill, on his way to church. The prisoner was tried at Bedford Assizes, condemned, and hanged on July 26th of the same year.

1833 A remarkably high wind with heavy rain, which did considerable damage, causing many chimneys, walls, and slightly-constructed buildings to fall. A considerable number of sparrows were picked up which had been killed by being blown against the church tower.

1837 August 1st. The Old Shoulder of Mutton public house, which were the last remains of the shambles, was pulled down.

1842 A public dinner, given at the George Hotel, to commemorate the birth of the Prince of Wales. A Blanket Fund was raised by subscription, amounting

to £254 19s. 4d., and one thousand and two blankets were given to nine hundred and sixty-two families belonging to the parish.

1849 February 21st. The Pondwick Cottages sold by auction for building materials.

During the time that Dr. Stuart, (the late Bishop of Armagh) who was a very severe man, was Vicar of Luton, several persons were flogged in the Market House; and since his time, one John Olney stood in the pillory:—(the pillory stood between the Market House and the Red Lion Inn)—some person, from a window of the latter place, threw a stone and struck Olney in the face; the people immediately smashed the window, and had he not escaped he would have been treated the same as Olney.

Sixty years ago the Ampthill coach, driven by Joseph Hillsden, used to start from Ampthill in the afternoon and stop at the Bell Inn, Luton, all night; then setting out at six o'clock the following morning the passengers took breakfast at St. Albans at 10 o'clock; dinner at the White Hart Inn, at Mimms, at one o'clock; and arrived at the Golden Lion, St. John Street, London, at six o'clock in the evening; starting next morning at eight o'clock, it arrived at Luton in the night; next morning it left for Ampthill, and returning the same night to Luton, making a journey from Ampthill to London and back twice in a week. The fare, outside, 12s., inside, 21s. At the hinder part of the coach was a wicker basket with seats for four passengers. The coach continued to run until about 1810, when a new one was started from Luton, instead of the former; this performed the journey from Luton to London in nine hours. It left Luton at nine a.m. and arrived in London at six p.m. The roads at this time were so bad that the passengers had to get off the coach and walk up and down the hills.

Mr. Thomas Pike, a woolsorter, being on tramp for work, arrived at the bottom of Rye Hill and sitting down to examine

his money found that he had only fourpence left, the price for a bed for one night's lodging. Going to the Foot-plough public house, the woolsorters house of call, he was provided with victuals, &c., and obtained regular work at Mr. John Hay's, whose warehouse stood at the bottom of a yard in George Street, called Spenser's yard. By his savings, and a little property by marriage, he commenced malting. The premises now in Castle Street—belonging to Mr. Kidman, of Biscot, and the land, or meadow, formerly called Pike's Close, which was lately sold by Mr. Kidman to Mr. Richard Vyse, who has since sold the greater portion of it for building, through which a new street is now formed, called Victoria Street—was the property of Mr. Thomas Pike.

A wonderful discovery of a murder at Luton. "An officer in the army, named Paxton, about 40 years ago, took a farm near Luton, in Bedfordshire, which he rented of Mr. Cross, a brewer in London, who had formerly been plough boy to a farmer there. The captain kept a bailiff to manage the affairs of his farm; he sent him one market-day to sell grain and other goods at Luton, expecting the money at his return. The Bailiff, whose name was Reddas, having laid out the money he had received, upon some necessary occasion, the captain fell into a rage, and in the height of his wrath stabbed the man, who soon after died of his wound. Paxton, upon this, fled into foreign parts, and continued there about two years. Having some urgent business to transact in England, he ventured to return, hoping that he might pass undiscovered, wearing a black patch over one of his eyes. The very moment he stepped out of the boat, at one of the landing places of the Thames, having scarcely set foot upon one of the stairs of the place, the murdered person's brother (a barber, of Luton) happened to be there, immediately knew him and got him secured. Paxton was brought down to Bedford and sentenced to the gibbet. October 26th, 1763."

THE BOTANY OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF LUTON.

The following List of Flowering Plants, growing wild in the neighbourhood of Luton, is intended to apply generally to a circuit of three miles round the town: Sundon, Streatley, and Barton Hills, however, places frequently mentioned, are about five miles distant. Many rare plants may be found in these latter-named districts.

In the arrangement and nomenclature, Dr. Lindley's "Synopsis of the British Flora," second edition, with some slight alterations in the Natural Orders, sanctioned by that botanist in his later works, has been followed.

The writer acknowledges the kind assistance rendered by Miss Paybody.

The Flowerless Plants are not enumerated.

VASCULARES, OR FLOWERING PLANTS OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

EXOGENS, OR DICOTYLEDONS.

RANUNCULACEAE.

- Anemone nemorosa*. Wood Anemone. Luton Park.
 „ *pulsatilla*. The Pasque Flower. Barton Downs.
Clematis vitalba. Common Traveller's Joy. Hedges.
Ranunculus bulbosus. Buttercups. Meadows.
 „ *Philonotis*. Hairy Crowfoot. Moist Meadows.
 „ *repens*. Creeping Crowfoot. Pastures & Meadows.
 „ *aquatilis*. Water Crowfoot. Ditches and Ponds.

Caltha palustris. Marsh Marigold. Marshy Places.

Aquilegia vulgaris. Columbine. Dallow Farm.

NYMPHAEACEAE.

Nuphar lutea. Yellow Water Lily. Luton Park Pond.

PAPAVERACEAE.

Papaver Rhæas. Common Poppy. Cultivated Fields.

FUMARIACEAE.

Fumaria officinalis. Fumitory. Corn Fields.

BRASSICACEAE OR CRUCIFERAE.

Nasturtium officinale. Water Cress. Rivulets and Ditches.

Barbarea vulgaris. Winter Cress. Yellow Rocket. Ditch Sides.

Iberis amara. Candy Tuff. Barton.

Cardamine pratensis. Lady's Smock. Moist Meadows.

Sisymbrium officinale. Hedge Mustard. Road Sides.

Alliaria officinalis. Jack by the Hedge. Hedges.

Isatis tinctoria. Wild Woad. Sundon.

VIOLACEAE.

Viola odorata. Sweet Violet. Hedge Banks.

„ *canina* Dog's Violet. Hedge Banks.

„ *tricolor*. Wild Pansy. Corn Fields.

CISTACEAE.

Helianthemum vulgare. Rock Rose. Eaton Green.

POLYGALACEAE.

Polygala vulgaris. Milkwort. Eaton Green.

MALVACEAE.

Malva sylvestris. Common Mallow. Way Sides.

„ *rotundifolia*. Round-leaved Mallow. Way Sides.

„ *mochata*. Musk Mallow. Near Caddington.

HYPERICACEAE.

Hypericum calycinum. Large Flowered St. John's Wort. Sundon.

„ *perforatum*. St. John's Wort.

- Hypericum hirsutum.* Hairy St. John's Wort. Park.
 „ *pulchrum.* Upright St. John's Wort. Pepperstock.

CARYOPHYLLACEAE.

- Silene inflata.* Bladder Campion. Hedges.
Lychnis Flos Cuculi. Ragged Robbin. Moist Meadows and
 Ditches.
 „ *dioica.* White Campion. Hedges.
Agrostemma Githago. Corn Cockel. Corn Fields.
Spergula arvensis. Spurrey.
Cerastium vulgatum. Mouse-ear Chickweed. Everywhere.
Stellaria graminea. Lesser Stitchwork. Common.
 „ *Holostea.* Great Stitchwork. Hedges.

GERANIACEAE.

- Geranium pratense.* Great Crane's-bill. Farley Road—rare.
 „ *Robertianum.* Herb Robert. Farley Road.
 „ *molle.* Hedges and Dry Pastures.
 „ *phaeum.* Dusky Crane's-bill. Luton Park.
 „ *lucidum.* Shining Crane's-bill. Luton Park.

OXALIDACEAE.

- Oxalis acetosella.* Wood Sorrel. Park.

CRASSULACEAE.

- Sedum acre.* Biting Stonecrop. Decayed Buildings.
 „ *telephium.* Orpine.
Senpervivum tectorum. Houseleek. Walls and Housetops.

SAXIFRAGACEAE.

- Parnassia palustris.* Grass of Parnassus. Leagrave Marsh.
Leiogyne granulata. White Meadow Saxifrage. Park.

LYTHRACEAE.

- Lythrum Salicaria.* Purple Loose-strife. Brooks.

CELASTRACEAE.

- Euonymus europæus.* Spindle-tree. Near Leagrave—rare.

FABACEAE OR LEGUMINOSAE.

- Ulex europæus.* Furze. Stockwood Lawn.

- Genista tinctoria*. Dyers' Green-weed. Sundon.
Cytisus scoparius. Broom. Stockwood Lawn.
Anthyllis vulneraria. Kidney Vetch.
Ononis arvensis. Hairy Rest-harrow.
Melilotus officinalis. Yellow Melilot. Hedges.
Trifolium repens. Dutch Clover. Pastures.
 ,, *pratense*. Purple Clover. Pastures.
 ,, *procumbens*. Hop Trefoil. Gravelly Soil.
 ,, *arvense*. Hare's-foot Trefoil.
Lotus corniculatus. Bird's-foot Trefoil. Banks and Pastures.
Medicago sativa. Lucerne. Cultivated Ground.
Vicia cracca. Tufted Vetch. Moist Hedges.
 ,, *sativa*. Common Vetch. Cultivated Ground.
Lathyrus pratensis. Everlasting Tare. Hedges.
Astragalus glycyphyllos. Sweet Milk-vetch.

ROSACEAE.

- Spiraea Filipendula*. Dropwort. Barton.
 ,, *salicifolia*. Willow-leaved Spinea. Park.
 ,, *Ulmaria*. Meadow Sweet. Queen of the Meadows.
 Watery Places.
Prunus spinosa. Sloe. Blackthorn. Hedges.
Rubus cæsius. Dewberry. Hedges and Thickets.
 ,, *fruticosus*. Common Bramble. Hedges.
Potentilla anserina. Silverweed. Road Sides.
 ,, *reptans*. Creeping Cinquefoil. Waste Ground.
 ,, *Fragaria*. Wild Strawberry. Common.
 ,, *nemoralis*. Trailing Tormantil. Gravelly Soil.
 ,, *Tormentilla*.
Agrimonia eupatoria. Agrimony. Road Sides.
Rosa canina. Dog Rose. Hedges.
 ,, *arvensis*. Hedges.
Pyrus malus. Crab Tree. Hedges.

GROSSULACEAE.

- Ribes rubrum*. Red Currants. Sundon—rare.

Ribes grossularia. Gooseberry.

ONAGRACEÆ.

Epilobium hirsutum. Codlings and Cream. Ditches.

„ *parviflorum*. Ditches.

„ *montanum*. Dry Ditches.

„ *palustre*. Near the Park.

„ *angustifolium*. Persian or French Willow.

Circaea letutiana. Enchanters' Night-shade. Park.

CERCODIACEÆ.

Hippuris vulgaris. Mare's Tail. Park.

ARALIACEÆ.

Hedera Helix. Ivy. Trees and Fences.

APIACEÆ OR UMBELLIFERÆ.

Conium maculatum. Hemlock. Hedges.

Sanicula eropœa. Wood Sanicle. Park.

GALIACEÆ OR STELLATÆ.

Galium verum. Ladies' Bed Straw.—Yellow Bed-Straw.
Banks and Hedges.

„ *Mollugo*. Hedge Bed-Straw. Banks and Hedges.

Asperula odorata. Woodruff. Park.

„ *lynanchica*. Squinancy Wort. Barton—rare.

CAPRIFOLIACEÆ.

Caprifolium periclymenum. Woodbine. Hedges and Thickets.

Viburnum Opulus. Guelder Rose. Near the Park.

Sambucus Ebulus. Dwarf Elder or Danewort. Sundon.

„ *nigra*. Elder. Hedges.

CORNACEÆ.

Cornus Sanguinea. Dogwood. Hedges.

LORANTHACEÆ.

Viscum album. Mistletoe. Park.

CAMPANULACEÆ.

Campanula rotundifolia. Heath Bell. Hare Bell. Gravelly
Fields and Hedges.

- Campanula latifolia*. Giant Bell-flower. Near Caddington.
 „ *rapunculoides*. Road Sides.
 „ *Trachelium*. Canterbury Bells. Near Caddington.
 „ *glomerata*. Clustered Bell-flower. Hedge Banks.

VALERIANACEAE.

- Valeriana officinalis*. Valerian. Watery Places.

DIPSACEAE.

- Dipsacus sylvestris*. Wild Teasel. Road Sides.
Scabiosa succisa. Devil's-bit Scabious. Stockwood Lawn.
 „ *arvensis*. Field Scabious. Cultivated Fields.

ASTERACEAE OR COMPOSITAE.

- Eupatorium cannabinum*, Hemp Agrimony. Ditches.
Senecio vulgaris. Groundsel. Cultivated Ground.
 „ *jacobæa*. Ragwort. New-mill End.
 „ *aquaticus*. Marsh Ragwort. Watery Places.
Bellis perennis. Daisy. Pastures.
Chrysanthemum leucanthemum. Ox-eye. Pastures.
 „ *Parthenium*. Feverfew. Pepperstock.
 „ *segetum*. Corn Marigold. Corn Fields.
Matricaria Chamomilla. Wild Camomile. Cultivated and
 Waste Ground.
Tanacetum vulgare. Tansy.
Achillæa Ptarmica. Sneezewort. Watery Places.
 „ *Millefolium*. Yarrow. Milfoil. Road Sides and
 Pastures.
Bidens tripartita. Bur-Marigold. Watery Places.
Centaurea nigra. Knapweed. Road Sides.
 „ *Cyanus*. Blue Bottle. Corn Fields.
 „ *Scabiosa*. Greater Knapweed. Road Sides.
Carduus nutans. Musk Thistle. Common.
Sonchus oleraceus. Sowthistle. Cultivated Ground.
Leontodon Taraxacum. Dandelion. Pastures.
Crepis tectorum. Succory Hawkweed. Road Sides.
Picris hieracioides. Hawkweed Ox-tongue.

Hieracium Pilosella. Mouse-ear Hawkweed. Gravelly Pastures.

Cichorium Intybus. Wild Succory. Dunstable Road.

Conyza squarrosa. Ploughman's Spikenard. Near the Lodge.

Spiranthes autumnalis. Ladies' Tresses. Stockwood Lawn.

BORAGINACEAE.

Echium vulgare. Viper's Bugloss. Near Barton.

Borago officinalis. Borage. Near Barton.

Myosotis palustris. Forget-me-not. Watery Places.

Cynoglossum officinale. Hound's-tongue. Near Biscot.

Lycopsis arvensis. Bugloss. Near Barton.

CONVOLVULACEAE.

Convolvulus arvensis. Dwarf Convolvulus. Cultivated Ground.

„ *sepium*. Bindweed. Hart Hill.

CUCURBITACEAE.

Bryonia dioica. Bryony. Hedges.

OLEACEAE.

Ligustrum vulgare. Privet. Hedges.

ERICACEAE.

Calluna vulgaris. Common Ling. Pepperstock.

Erica tetralix. Cross-leaved Heath.

APOCYNACEAE.

Vinca major. Greater Periwinkle. Sundon.

„ *minor*. Lesser Periwinkle. Park.

GENTIANACEAE.

Erythraea centaurium. Common Centaury. Sundon and Farley—rare.

Chlora perfoliata. Yellow Centaury. Sundon—rare.

SOLANACEAE.

Hyoscyamus niger. Henbane. Barton Road.

Herbascum Thapsus. Great Mullein. Waste Ground.

Solanum Dulcamara. Woody Nightshade. A Weed in Gardens.

PRIMULACEAE.

- Primula vulgaris*. Primrose. Banks.
 „ *elatior*. Oxlip.
 „ *veris*. Cowslip. Meadows and Banks.
Lysimachia nemorum. Wood Loosestrife. Yellow Pimpernel. Near Harpenden—very rare.
 „ *Nummularia*. Moneywort. Brook and Ditch Sides.
Anagallis arvensis. Scarlet Pimpernel. Corn Fields.

SCROPHULARIACEAE.

- Veronica Beccabunga*. Brooklime. Ditches.
 „ *officinalis*. Common Speedwell. Hedges.
 „ *chamædrys*. Germander Speedwell. Shady Places.
Rhinanthus Christa galli. Yellow Rattle. Pastures.
Euphrasia officinalis. Eyebright. Gravelly Ground.
Linaria Cymbalaria. Ivy-leaved Toad-flax. Eaton Green—rare.
 „ *vulgaris*. Common Yellow Toad-flax. Borders of Fields.
 „ *repens*. Creeping Pale Blue Toad-flax. St. Ann's Hill.
 „ *spuria*. Round-leaved Fluellen. Corn Fields.
Digitalis purpurea. Foxglove.
Scrophularia nodosa.
 „ *aquatica*. Water Betony. Wet Ditches.

VERBENACEAE.

- Verbena officinalis*. Common Vervain. Near St. Ann's Hill.

LAMIACEAE OR LABIATAE.

- Mentha aquatica*. Water Mint. Watery Places.
Thymus Serpyllum. Thyme.
Origanum vulgare. Marjorum. Near the Park. Common.
Galeopsis Ladanum. Corn Fields.
Lamium vulgatum. White Dead-nettle. Common.
Stachys Betonica. Betony. Common in Woods.

Scutellaria galericulata. Skull-cap. Watery Places—rather rare.

Prunella vulgaris. Self-Heal. Pastures.

THYMELACEAE.

Daphne Laureola. Spurge Laurel. Woods.

POLYGONACEAE.

Polygonum amphibium. Water Arsmart. Ponds.

„ *Persicaria.* Spotted Persicaria. Ditch Banks and Rubbish.

„ *Bistorta.* Great Bistort or Snake Weed—rather rare.

„ *Fagopyrum.* Buckwheat. Cultivated Fields.

„ *convolvulus.* Black Bindweed. Corn Fields.

CHENOPODIACEAE.

Atriplex angustifolia. Waste Ground.

URTICACEAE.

Urtica dioica. Great Stinging Nettle. Hedges.

RESEDACEAE.

Reseda Luteola. Dyer's Weed. Road Sides.

ENDOGENS, OR MONOCOTYLEDONS.

ARACEAE.

Arum maculatum. Lords and Ladies. Hedges. Common.

ALISMACEAE.

Sagittaria sagittifolia. Arrow-head. Brooks.

IRIDACEAE.

Iris Pseud-acorus. Water Flag or Yellow Water Iris. Park Pond.

„ *ivetidissima.* Stinking Iris. Park—rare.

ORCHIDACEAE.

- Listera ovata*. Common Twayblade. Park.
 „ *Nidus-aris*. Common Bird's Nest.
Epipactis latifolia. Broad-leaved Helleborine.
 „ *grandiflora*. Great White Helleborine. Park.
Orchis Morio.
 „ *vestulata*. Dwarf Orchis. Barton Downs.
 „ *mascula*. Early Purple Orchis. Crawley Green.
 „ *latifolia*. Marsh Orchis. Leagrave Marsh.
 „ *maculata*. Spot-leaved Baldary.
Anacamptis pyramidalis. Pyramidal Orchis. Barton.
Gymnadenia conopsea. Aramatic or Fragrant Orchis.
Platanthera bifolia. Butterfly Orchis. Park. Barton.
Ophrys Apifera. Bee Orchis. Park.
 „ *Muscifera*. Fly Orchis. Park.
 „ *Aranifera*. Spider Orchis. Streatly Wood.
Gynandria Monandria. Frog Orchis. Someries.

MELANTHACEAE.

- Colchicum autumnale*. Meadow Saffron.

AMARYLLIDACEAE.

- Narcissus Pseudo-narcissus*. Daffodil. Runley Wood.

LILIACEAE.

- Ornithogalum umbellatum*. Star of Bethlehem. Park.
Ruscus aculeatis. Butcher's Broom.

DIOSCOREACEAE.

- Tamus communis*. Black Bryony. Hedges.

MONOTROPEAE.

- Monotropa Hypopitys*. Yellow Bird's Nest. Wood on New
 Mill End Road.

SMILACEAE.

- Paris quadrifolium*. Herb Paris. Park Waterfall.

VERTEBRATE ANIMALS OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF LUTON.

In the arrangement and nomenclature of the Vertebrate Animals found in this neighbourhood, the "Manual of British Vertebrate Animals," by the Rev. L. Jenyns, is principally followed. Material assistance has been afforded to the author of the present work, in forming the List of Birds, by Mr. Henry Tomson, corn merchant, of Luton; a gentleman who, for many years, has given special attention to this part of the Animal Kingdom.

QUADRUPEDS OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

CLASS MAMMALIA.

FERÆ.

Meles taxus. Badger.

Mustela putorius. Polecat. Fitchet.

„ *Foina.* Marten. Rare.

„ *Erminea.* Stoat. Ermine.

„ *vulgaris.* Weasel.

Lutra vulgaris. Otter.

Canus Vulpes. Fox.

Talpa Europæa. Black Mole.

Sorex Araneus. Common Shrew. Hardy Mouse.

„ *Fodiens.* Water Shrew. Rare.

Erinaceus Europæus. Hedge Hog. Common.

PRIMATES.

Vespertilio Noctula. Great Bat.

„ *Pipistrellus.* Common Bat.

„ *auritus.* Greater Long-eared Bat.

GLIRES.

- Sciurus vulgaris*. Squirrel.
Myoxus avellanarius. Dormouse. Rare.
Mus sylvaticus. Field Mouse.
Mus messorius. Harvest Mouse. Common.
Mus musculus. House Mouse.
Mus Rattas. Black Rat. Rare.
Mus decumanus. Brown Rat. Common Rat.
Arvicola amphibia. Water Campagnol. Water Rat.
Arvicola agrestis. Short-tailed Mouse. Meadow Mouse.
Lepus timidus. Hare.
Lepus Cuniculus. Rabbit.

BIRDS OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

CLASS AVES.

RAPTORES.

- Falco haliaetus*. Osprey, or Fishing Hawk. Rare.
Buteo vulgaris. Common Buzzard. Scarce.
Buteo lagopus. Rough-legged Buzzard. Scarce.
Milvus Ictinus. Kite. Scarce.
Falco subbuteo. Hobby. Scarce.
 „ *æsalon*. Merlin. Scarce.
 „ *Tinnunculus*. Kestrel, or Windhover. Common.
Accipiter fringillarius. Sparrow-Hawk. Common.
Buteo cyaneus. Hen Harrier, or Blue Hawk. Rare.
Strix Brachyotos. Short-eared Owl, or Woodcock Owl.
 Migratory.
 „ *Otus*. Long-eared Owl. Rare.
 „ *stridula*. Tawny, or Brown Owl. Common.
 „ *flammea*. Barn, White, or Screech Owl. Common.
 „ *passerina*. Little Night Owl. Rare.

INCESSORES.

Lanius excubitor. Great Shrike, Grey Shrike, or Great Butcher Bird. Rare.

„ *collurio.* Red-backed Shrike, or Little Butcher Bird. Migratory. Common.

Parus major. Great Titmouse, Black-headed Tomtit. Common.

„ *ater.* Cole Titmouse.

„ *ceruleus.* Little Blue Tit, or Nun. Common.

„ *palustris.* Marsh Tit, or Black-cap Tit. Oxeys. Common.

„ *caudatus.* Long-tailed Tit, or Bottle Tom. Common.

„ *biarmicus.* Bearded Tit, or Reed Pheasant. Rare.

Muscicapa grisola. Spotted Flycatcher, or Beam Bird. Migratory. Common.

Alcedo ispida. King-Fisher. Common.

Corvus corax. Raven. Common.

„ *corone.* Carrion Crow. Common.

„ *cornix.* Royston or Hooded Crow. Common.

„ *frugilegus.* Rook. Common.

Corvus monedula. Jackdaw. Common.

„ *Pica.* Magpie. Common.

„ *glandarius.* Jay. Common.

Bombycirora garrula. Waxwing, or Bohemian Chatterer. Rare.

Sitta Europæa. Nuthatch, or Nutjobber. Common.

Yunx torquilla. Wryneck, or Cuckoo's Mate. Summer visitor. Common.

Certhia familiaris. Common Tree Creeper. Common.

Picus viridis. Green Woodpecker. Common.

„ *varius major.* Great Spotted Woodpecker, or Woodnacker. Common.

„ „ *minor.* Little, or Barred Woodpecker. Rare.

Cuculus canorus. Common Cuckoo. Summer visitor. Common.

- Caprimulgus Europæus*. Night-jar, Goat-sucker, Fern Owl,
or Night Hawk. Summer visitor. Scarce.
- Hirundo apus*. Swift. Migratory. Common.
- „ *rustica*. Common Swallow. Migratory. Common.
- „ *urbica*. Common Marten. Migratory. Common.
- „ *riparia*. Sand Marten. Migratory. Common.
- Motacilla alba*. Common Pied Wagtail. Migratory. Common.
- „ *boarula*. Grey Wagtail. Migratory. Common.
- „ *flava*. Yellow Wagtail. Summer visitor.
- Alauda pratensis*. Meadow Pipip, or Titlark. Common.
- „ *trivialis*. Tree Pipip, or Field Lark. Common.
- „ *arborea*. Wood Lark. Scarce.
- „ *arvensis*. Sky Lark. Common.
- Emberiza montana*. Snow Bunting, or Snow flake. Winter
visitor. Rare.
- „ *miliaria*. Common, or Corn Bunting. Common.
- „ *schaenichus*. Reed Bunting, Black-headed Bunting,
or Water Sparrow. Common.
- „ *citrinella*. Yellow-hammer, or Yellow Bunting.
Common.
- „ *cirlus*. Cirl Bunting. Rare.
- Fringilla cælebs*. Chaffinch. Common.
- „ *montifringilla*. Brambling, or Mountain Finch.
Common in Winter.
- „ *montana*. Tree Sparrow, or Mountain Sparrow.
Common in Winter.
- „ *domestica*. Common House Sparrow. Common.
- Loxia chloris*. Green Finch. Common.
- „ *coccythraustes*. Hawfinch. Scarce.
- Fringella carduelis*. Goldfinch. Common.
- „ *spinus*. Siskin, or Aberdevine. In flocks in the
Winter
- „ *cannabina*. Common Linnet. Common.
- „ *linaria*. Little Redpole. In small numbers in
Winter.

- Fringella Borealis*. Mealy Redpole. Occasionally.
- „ *Flavirostris*. Mountain Linnet, or Twite. Occasionally in Autumn.
- Loxia Pyrrhula*. Bullfinch. Common.
- „ *curvirostra*. Common Cross-bill. In flocks in Winter.
- Sturnus vulgaris*. Starling. Common.
- Turdus viscivorus*. Missel-Thrush. Common.
- „ *pilaris*. Fieldfare, or Blue-back. Common in Winter.
- „ *iliacus*. Redwing, or Wind Thrush. Common in Winter.
- „ *musicus*. Common Song Thrush. Very abundant.
- „ *Merula*. Blackbird. Very abundant.
- „ *torquatus*. King Ouzel, or Mountain Blackbird. Occasional visitant.
- Accentor modularis*. Hedge Sparrow. Common.
- Motacilla Rubecula*. Redbreast, or Robin Redbreast. Common.
- Sylvia phaenicurus*. Redstart, or Redtail. Migratory. Common.
- „ *rubecula*. Stonechat. Common.
- „ *rubetra*. Whin, or Grasschat. Migratory. Common.
- „ *aenanthe*. Wheatear. Migratory. Seen occasionally.
- „ *locustella*. Grasshopper Warbler. Migratory. Rare.
- „ *salicaria*. Sedge Warbler. Migratory. Very common.
- „ *arundinacea*. Reed Warbler, or Reed Wren. Plentiful in Luton Park.
- „ *luscinia*. Nightingale. Migratory. Common.
- „ *atricapilla*. Blackcap Warbler, or Mock Nightingale. Migratory. Common.
- „ *hortensis*. Garden Warbler. Migratory. Common.
- „ *cinerea*. White-throat. Migratory. Common.
- „ *sylviella*. Lesser White-throat. Migratory. Common.
- „ *sylvicola*. Wood Warbler, Wood Wren, or Green Wren. Migratory. Rare.
- Sylvia trochilus*. Common Willow Wren, or Laughing Wren. Migratory. Very common.

- Sylvia hippolais*. Little Willow Wren, or Chiff Chaff. Migratory. Common.
 „ *trogodytes*. Common Wren. Common.
 „ *regulus*. Golden-crowned Wren. Common.

COLUMBES.

- Columba palumbus*. Ring Dove, or Cushat. Common.
 „ *anas*. Stock Dove, or Wood Pigeon.
 „ *livia*. Rock Dove, or Common Dovehouse Pigeon.
 „ *turtur*. Turtle Dove. Migratory. Common.
Phasianus colchicus. Pheasant. Common.
Perdix cinerea. Partridge. Common.
 „ *rufa*. Red-legged Partridge. Common.
 „ *coturnix*. Quail. Migratory. Rare.

GALLATORES.

- Oedicronemus crepitans*. Great Plover. Norfolk Plover, or Thick-kneed Bustard. Migratory. Common.
Charadrius pluvialis. Golden, or Green Plover. In great flocks in Spring.
 „ *morinellus*. Dotterel Plover. Visits in Spring.
 „ *calidris*. Sanderling Plover. Rare.
Vanellus cristatus. Peewit, or Lapwing. Common.
Ardea cinerea. Common Heron. Common.
 „ *stellaris*. Common Bittern. Scarce.
Scolopax phæopus. Jack Curlew, or Whimbrel. Rare.
 „ *arquata*. Common Curlew. Rare.
Tringa ochropus. Green Sandpiper. Not uncommon in Summer.
 „ *glareola*. Wood Sandpiper. Occasionally.
 „ *hypoleucos*. Common Sandpiper, or Summer Snipe. Occasionally.
 „ *alpina*. Dunlin, or Purre. Rare.
Scolopax rusticola. Woodcock. Migratory. Common.
 „ *gallinago*. Common Snipe. Migratory. Common.
 „ *gallinula*. Jack Snipe. Migratory. Common.

Gallinula crex. Land Rail, or Corn Crane. Migratory.
Common.

„ *porzana.* Spotted Crane. Rare.

„ *chloropus.* Moorhen. Common.

Rallus aquaticus. Water Rail. Common.

Fulica atra. Common, or Bald Coot. Common.

NATATOIRES.

Anas Canadensis. Wild Goose. Canada Goose. Migratory.
Common.

„ *olor.* Swan. Common.

„ *acuta.* Pintail Duck. Winter visitor. Common.

„ *boschas.* Mallard, or Common Wild Duck. Migratory.

„ *crecca.* Common Teal. Winter visitor. Common.

„ *penelope.* Widgeon. Winter visitor. Common.

„ *ferina.* Pochard, or Dun Bird. Winter visitor. Common.

„ *fuligula.* Tufted Duck. Winter visitor. Rare.

„ *clangula.* Golden-eye Duck. Winter visitor. Rare.

Podiceps minor. Little Grebe, or Dabchick. Common.

Colymbus septentrionalis. Red-throated Diver. Rare.

Alca alle. Little Auk. Winter visitor. Twice taken here.

Sterna hirundo. Common Tern, or Sea Swallow. Migratory.
Rare.

Larus ridibundus. Black-headed Gull. In Winter.

„ *tridactylus.* Kittiwake Gull. In Winter.

REPTILES, &c., OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

CLASS REPTILIA.

SAURIA.

Lacerta agilis. Common Lizard.

OPHIDIA.

- Anguis fragilis.* Blind-Worm. Common Slow-Worm.
Natrix torquata. Ringed Snake. Common Snake.
Vipera communis. Viper. Rare.

 CLASS AMPHIBIA.

- Rana temporaria.* Common Frog.
Bufo vulgaris. Common Toad.
Triton palustris. Water Eft. Great Water-Newt.
 „ *punctatus.* Common Eft.

 FISHES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.
 CLASS PISCES.

ACANTHOPTERYGII.

- Perca fluviatilis.* Common Perch.
 „ *Cernua.* Ruffe.
Cottus Gobio. Bull-head. Miller's Thumb.
Gasterosteus aculeatus. Three-spined Stickleback.
 „ *aculeatus var.* Short-spined Stickleback.
 „ *Pungitius.* Ten-spined Stickleback.

MALACOPTERYGII.

- Cyprinus Carpio.* Carp.
 „ *Gobio.* Gudgeon.
 „ *Tinca.* Tench.
 „ *Rutilus.* Roach.
 „ *Leuciscus.* Dace.
 „ *Cephalus.* Chub.
 „ *Phoxinus.* Minnow.

Cobitis barbatula. Bearded Leach.

Esox Lucius. Pike. Jack.

Salmo Fario. Common Trout.

Anguilla acutirostris. Sharp-nosed Eel. Silver Eel.

„ *latirostris.* Broad-nosed Eel. Grig.

CYCLOSTOMI.

Petromyzon fluviatilis. River Lamprey.

CRUSTACEANS.

Astacus fluviatilis. Crawfish.

Daphnia Pulex. Water Flea.

Cyclops vulgaris.



A D D E N D A .

PROPOSED RAILWAY.

Several Railways for the Town have been projected during the last few years, none of which have been carried out. The present proposed Branch, called the "Luton, Dunstable, and Welwyn Junction Railway," which has already passed the third reading in the House of Commons, will probably be accomplished. It is proposed that this Line shall commence at Digswell, near Welwyn, where it will join the Hertford and Welwyn, and the Great Northern Railways, and proceed by Wheathampstead and Harpenden to Luton and Dunstable, where it will join the Dunstable Branch of the London and North Western Railway; thereby connecting the three Trunk Lines, called the Eastern Counties, the Great Northern, and the London and North Western. The length of the Line will be seventeen and one-third miles. Estimated cost (single Line with land for a double Line), £120,000; to be raised by the issue of Shares of Ten Pounds

each. Upwards of two hundred local shareholders, representing shares to about £25,000, are already allotted. Messrs. Jackson and Bean, the provisional contractors for the works, are subscribers of more than one-third of the entire capital.

BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIRS OF EMINENT PERSONS
CONNECTED WITH LUTON.

Anno. Dom. 1517, 9th Henry VIII.

Extract from Wood's *Atheno. Oxonienses*
Fasti Oxonienses.

Commissioner Mr. Richard Doke or Duck,
of Exeter Coll., now Chaplain to Cardinal
Wolsey.

Doctr. of Divinity. Eodem Anno.

"Apr. Richard Doke or Duck," of Exeter
Coll., he was about this time canon of Exeter
Cathedral, and afterwards became Archdeacon
of Wilts. and of Salisbury, in which last dignity
I find him to occur in 1536. After he was
admitted Doctor he was made Commissary of the
University, as I have before told you."—*Wood's*
Athenæ Oxon. I. Fasti 26.

ⁱⁱⁱ
"Clari^{et}, 1557. 'John Gwynneth' was a
Welshman born, and tho of very poor parentage,

yet of most excellent natural parts, and exceeding apt to embrace any kind of juvenile learning. But so it was that he having little or nothing to maintain him in his studies at Oxon, he was exhibited to by an ecclesiastical ~~Mācenas~~ ^{Mācenas}, who well knew that his abilities were such that, in future time, he might be an ornament to the Catholic Church, by writing against the heretics, as they were then called. The younger years of this Gwymneth were adorned with all kinds of polite literature, and his elder with the reading of the scriptures and conversation with books written by and against the Lutherans and Zuinglians; at length, perceiving full well what ground their doctrine had gotten, he wrote—

“‘Declaration of the state wherein Heretics do lead their lives.’ 1554. Lond. in qu. ✓

“‘Declaration of that part of Fryth’s Book which he termed his foundation.’ London. 1554, 8vo.; printed also, if I mistake not, before that time.

“‘Against John Frythe on the Sacrament of the Altar.’ Lond. . 1557, 4to.; printed also, I think, before that time.

“‘Declaration of the notable victory given of God to Queen Mary, shewed in the church of Luton, 22nd July, in first year of her reign.’ Lond. 1554. 8vo., with other things, as ’tis probable, which I have not yet seen.—This John

priest Gymneth I take to be the same with Jo. Gwymneth, a secularist, who for his great proficiency, and works performed in the faculty of music, had the degree of Doctor of the first faculty conferred upon him by the members of this University. Anno. 1531.—*Wood's Ath. Oxon.* I. 106.

“‘A Playne demonstration of Jno. Frithe’s ‘Lacke of Witte and Learning in his understanding of Holie Scripture, and of the holy doctrines in ye blessed Sacrament of ye Aulter.’ Lond. 1557. 4to.—*Watts’ Biblioth. Brit., Vol. I., authors in vita.*

“Ano. 1531—23 Henry VIII.

“Doctors of Music.

“‘Dec. John Gymneth, a secular priest who had spent twelve years in the praxis and theory of music, and had composed all the responses of the whole year in division song; and had published many masses in the said song, supplicated that these his said labours might enable him to be admitted to the praxis of music. This being granted conditionally that he compose one mass against the act following, he supplicated again that whereas he had spent twenty years in praxis and theory of music, had published three masses of five parts, and five masses of four parts, as also certain symphanas, antiphanas, and divers songs for the use of ye church, he might be

admitted to proceed in ye faculty of music, that is, be made Doctor of that faculty. Which desire of his being granted conditionally that he pay to the University on ye day of his admission 20 pence, he was forthwith licensed to proceed. —*Ibid.*—*Fasti I.* 49.

“John Pomfret, an English poet, was son of Mr. Pomfret, rector of Luton, in Beds., and was formerly of Trinity Col., Cam. He was born about 1667; he was educated at a grammar school in the country, and thence sent to Queen’s Col., Cam., where he took his bachelors degree in 1684, and that of master in 1698. He then went into Orders, and was presented to the living of Malden, in Beds. About 1703, he came up to London for institution to a large and very considerable living; but was stopped some time by Compton, ye Bp. of London, on account of ysse four lines of his poem, entitled ‘The Choice.’

“And as I near approach ye verge of Life,
“Some kind relation (for I’d have no wife),
“Should take upon him all my worldly care,
“While I did for a better state prepare.”

“The parenthesis in these lines was so maliciously represented, that the good Bishop was made to believe from it, that Pomfret preferred a mistress to a wife, tho’ no such meaning can be

deduced, unless it be asserted that an unmarried clergyman cannot live without a mistress. But the Bishop was soon convinced that this representation was nothing more than the effect of malice, as Pomfret at that time was actually married; the opposition, however, which his slanderers had given him was not without effect; for being on this occasion, obliged to stay in London longer than he intended, he caught the small-pox, and died of it, in 1703, aged 35 years.

"A volume of his poems was published by himself in 1699, with a very modest and sensible preface. Two pieces of his were published, after his death, by a friend, under the name of Philalethes; one called, "Reason," and written in 1700, when the disputes about the Trinity ran high; the other, "Dies Novissioma;" or, "The Last Epiphany"—a Pindaric Ode. His versification is sometimes not unmusical; but there is not the force in his writings which is necessary to constitute a poet. A dissenting teacher of his name, and who published some rhymes upon spiritual subjects, occasioned fanaticism to be imputed to him; but from this, his friend Philalethes has justly cleared him.

"Pomfret had a very strong mixture of devotion in him, but no fanaticism.

"The Choice," says Dr. Johnson, 'exhibits a system of life adapted to common notions, and

equal to common expectations; such a state as affords plenty and tranquillity, without exclusion of intellectual pleasures. Perhaps no composition in our language has been oftener perused than Pomfret's 'Choice.' In his other poems there is an easy volubility; the pleasure of smooth metre is afforded to the ear, and the mind is not oppressed with ponderous, or entangled with intricate sentiment. He pleased many, and he who pleases many must have merit. His son, John, had the office of Rouge-Croix, in the Herald's Office, and wrote some satirical verses on the removal of the family portraits of the Howard's from the hall of the Herald's College, to Arundel Castle. He died March 24, 1751, aged 49."—*Johnson's Lives*.

Extracted from Biograp. Dic. Vol. xxv. in vita.

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